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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether the paper is directed to his name or another's, or whether he is a subscriber or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20, 1875.

SENATE.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Interior in answer to a resolution of the Senate of December 18, transmitting various papers connected with the investigation into the affairs of the Osage Indian Agency. Ordered to be printed and lie on the table.

Mr. BAYARD presented the credentials of Robert H. Marr, signed by John McEnery as Governor of Louisiana, appointing him United States Senator from Louisiana, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Wm. L. McMillan. Laid upon the table.

Mr. EDMUNDS said he desired to state, before offering a resolution which he proposed, that in regard to the resolution offered by him last Friday, touching the President of the Senate, there had been some discussion, and upon further conference with the Senators, he thought there should be no question of doubt as to who is President of the Senate, between this date and the day of meeting of Congress after the holiday recess. He, therefore, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That Thomas W. Ferry, Senator from Michigan, be President of the Senate until January 7th, 1876, and until a fresh appointment shall be made.

The CHAIR—Mr. Anthony announced that the question was upon the passage of the resolution.

Mr. SAULSBURY said he did not desire to interpose any objection to the resolution, but it seemed to him that it involved questions already before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The resolution assumed that the Senate had not a President, and he merely wished to call the attention of the Senator from Vermont to that fact.

Mr. EDMUNDS said he had drawn the resolution so as not to assume that fact. The resolution did not declare whether or not Mr. Ferry was President; it merely declared that he should be. If Mr. Ferry is not President of the Senate, then he will be until the time named, by the passage of this resolution.

Mr. BAYARD offered a substitute, declaring A. G. Thurman President of the Senate until January 7, 1876, or until a fresh appointment shall be made, and upon this demanded the yeas and nays. The substitute was rejected—yeas 21, nays 34, a strictly party vote.

The original resolution submitted by Mr. Edmundson was then adopted. Mr. Ferry then took the chair and said: "Senators, I desire to thank you for your further courtesy and confidence."

Mr. MORTON said he desired to state that by voting for the resolution he had not committed himself to any evasion, but voted for it merely as a matter of precaution.

Mr. MORRILL submitted a resolution that the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting by bill or otherwise some measure to increase the efficiency of the service of steamboat inspection. He said if accounts in the newspapers of loss of life on the Pacific coast were true, something should be done to improve the service. The resolution was agreed to.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate unfinished business, being the resolution of Mr. Morton to authorize the appointment of a special committee to inquire into the circumstances attending the late election in Mississippi.

Mr. EATON said he would be glad to have further discussion of the resolution go over until after the holiday recess.

Mr. MORTON said he had been advised that there would be further debate upon it. He would be glad to have it disposed of to-day, but as a number of Senators were absent he would not press it to a vote, as he was not satisfied that a quorum would be present later in the day. He therefore made no objection to the resolution going over.

Mr. HITCHCOCK introduced a bill to transfer the Indian Bureau from the Interior Department to the War Department. Referred.

Mr. DAVIS introduced a bill making an appropriation of $150,000 to continue the improvement of the Monongahela river in the States of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Referred.

Mr. BOUTWELL introduced a bill to increase the efficiency of the navy and promote the maritime interests of the United States. Ordered to be printed and lie upon the table.

The bill proposes a system of bounties on shipbuilding, as follows: The Secretary of the Treasury is to offer a bounty of not more than eight dollars per ton, to be paid each year for a period of five years, for the construction in the United States of iron steamships of not less than 1,000 tons each, nor exceeding 3,000 tons, in the aggregate; not more than 100,000 tons to be authorized in any one year; said ships to be employed exclusively in foreign trade. Proposals are to be received and preference given the first ten for 50,000 tonnage on the Atlantic coast, 25,000 upon the great lakes and Mississippi river, and 25,000 on the Pacific coast. Vessels are to be constructed on models approved by the Navy Department, and the Government is to have the right to purchase or employ them upon the appraisement of a disinterested commission. The bill also provides for the payment of bounties to vessels hereafter launched as follows: Six dollars per ton for sailing vessels of 400 tons and upwards employed in foreign trade and between the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the United States, and four dollars per ton for sailing vessels of not less than 200 tons burden authorized to engage not more than three months per year in the coasting trade: *provided*, that if vessels of the two last named description are afterwards enrolled for the coasting trade the bounties shall be refunded to the Government, less ten per cent. per year. A bounty of four dollars per ton for the period of five years is provided for vessels employed in cod or mackerel fishery not more than four months each year. All materials for foreign trade or fisheries may purchase supplies in bond without payment of duty. The bill finally provides that vessels hereafter built by the Navy Department for open sea service shall not exceed 10,000 tons each.

Mr. ANTHONY, from the Committee on Printing, reported back the resolution to print extra copies of the President's message, and moved that its further consideration be indefinitely postponed. So ordered.

In making the report Mr. ANTHONY said it had been customary to print extra copies heretofore, but the message had already been sent by telegraph and published all over the country, and he saw no use to print extra copies now.

Mr. MCDONALD gave notice that he would, at the proper time, offer resolutions and move their adoption as a substitute for those recently submitted by his colleague (Morton) in regard to National and State rights.

Mr. MORTON—Introduce them now and let them be printed.

Mr. MCDONALD—I desire to introduce them hereafter.

Mr. BOGY called up the House bill to change the name of the steamer Tom Jasper, of St. Louis. Passed.

Mr. DENNIS introduced a bill for the settlement of the claims of officers of the Revolutionary war. It provides that the officers of the Army of the Revolution who were entitled to half-pay for life, under the resolutions of Congress of October 3 and 21, 1780; March 22 and May 8, and December 31, 1781, and March 5, 1878, shall be entitled to receive the same, although such officer may have received in lieu thereof, by certificates or otherwise, the commutation of full pay for five years, under the resolution of March 2, 1781. The bill also provides that the benefit of the resolution of August 24, 1790, shall be extended to widows and lineal descendants of all the officers embraced therein who died in the service at any period during the War of the Revolution. It also authorizes the accounting officers of the Treasury to adjudicate all such claims, and provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, issue stock of the United States for such claims, said stock to be redeemed twenty years from date and bear interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum. It also pledges the faith of the United States for the payment of the interest and the redemption of the principal of the stock which may be issued under the act. Referred.

After an executive session, the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, January 5, 1876.

HOUSE.

There was a much larger attendance of members to-day than was expected, owing to the holiday adjournment being fixed for to-day and that the only business is listening to announcements from the Speaker. The Journal of Friday last having been read and some executive communications being laid before the House, the Speaker announced the Standing Committees, as follows:

Ways and Means—Morrison, Wood, Hancock, Thomas, Hill, Chapin, Tucker, Blaine, Kelley, Garfield and Butterfield of Illinois.

Appropriations—Randall, Holman, Wells, of Missouri, Atkins, Hamilton, of New Jersey, Blount, Singleton, Beebe, Hale, Foster, Waldon.

Banking and Currency—Cox, Payne, Goode, Gibson, Raymond, Burchard, of Wisconsin, Wike, Townsend, of Pennsylvania, Kasson, Eames, Hubbell.

Pacific Railroads—Lamar, Atkins, Luttrell, Walker, of Virginia, Lynde, Throckmorton, Thomas, of Maryland, Phillips, of Missouri, Garfield, Kasson, Platte, O'Neill, Blair.

Judiciary—Knott, Hunton, Ashe, Lynde, Lord, Hurd, Canfield, McCreary, Lawrence, Frye, Starkweather.

Public Lands—Sayler, Goodin, Fuller, McFarland, Walling, Gauze, Lane, Hathorne, McDill, Morey, Lofland.

Foreign Affairs—Swann, Faulkner, Banks, Barnum, Ely, Hamilton, of Indiana, Springer, Farnum, Monroe, Williams, of Wisconsin, Packer.

Military Affairs—Banning, Glover, Williams, of Michigan, Terry, Cook, Reily, of Pennsylvania, Hardenburg, McDougall, Thornburgh, Hurlbert, Strait.

Commerce—Hereford, Ward, Durand, Regan, Piper, Kehr, Reese, Felton, Hunter, Ross, of Pennsylvania, Dunnell.

Postoffices and Post Roads—Clark, of Maine, Waddell, Luttrell, Alexander, of Tennessee, Walker, of New York, McMahon, Stemmons, Cannon, Miller, Stowell, Wallace, of South Carolina.

Claims—Bright, Neal, Brown, of Kentucky, Robbins, of North Carolina, Barbour, Cochran, Phillips, of Missouri, Pratt, Bass, Bradley, Cason.

War Claims—Eden, Milliken, Warren, Cabell, Ellis, New, Caldwell, Congres, Smith, of Pennsylvania, Wilson, of Iowa, Haskins.

Naval Affairs—Whitehouse, Lewis, Mills, Jones, of New Hampshire, Willis, Williams, of Delaware, Robinson, of Pennsylvania, Burleigh, Harris, of Massachusetts, Hayes, Danford.

Revision of Laws—Durham, Southard, Bell, Metcalf, Tesse, Douglass, Sparks, Lapo, Denison, Oliver, Robinson.

Education and Labor—Walker, of Virginia, Lamar, Faulkner, Cutler, Stinger, Clark, of Maryland, Sprunger, Hoar, Magoon, of Wisconsin, White, Nash.

District of Columbia—Buchler, Neal, Phelps, Cate, Hartridge, Atkins, Stevenson, McCrary, Willard, Hendee, Phillips, of Kansas.

Public Buildings and Grounds—Holman, Wells, of Missouri, Harrison, Cook, Hewitt, of New York, Walsh, Young, Williams, of Michigan, Woodworth, Plaisted, Kimball.

Patents—Lance, Blackburn, Sparks, Lapo, Douglass, Landers, Hartzell, Clark, of New York, Smith, of Georgia, Conger, Dobbins, Sampson, Hoge.

Invalid Pensions—Jenks, Bagley, of Illinois, Wilson, of West Virginia, Hewitt, of Alabama, Rice, Yeates, Rusk, Sennickson, Purnam, Rainey.

Revolutionary Pensions—Hunter, Bland, of Missouri, Phelps, Clarke, of Kentucky, Hurd, Davis, Schumaker, Townsend, of New York, Dobbins, Henderson, Williams, of Kansas.

Indian Affairs—Scales, Wishire, Boone, Sparks, Hooker, Morgan, Lane, Seelye, Page, Van Vorhes, Tufts.

Weights and Measures—Stephens, of Georgia, O'Brien, Herndon, Sayler, Parson, of New York, Maist, of Wisconsin, Chittenden, Seelye.

Territories—Southard, Caldwell, Mutschler, Franklin, Mead, Culberson, Wiggenton, Fort, Mackey, Freeman, Mahoney, of New York, Patterson.

Agriculture—Caldwell, Harris, of Georgia, Maist, Davis, Rea, Goodin, Sanford, Smith, of Pennsylvania, Van Vorhes, Smalls.

Mines and Mining—Hallon, Turney, Durham, Potter, Odell, Gibson, Campbell, Evans, Woodburn, Caswell, Lynch.

Private Land Claims—Gunter, Buckner, Parsons, Powell, Candler, Levy, Ainsworth, Metcalf, Joyce, Cannon, Lapham.

Public Expenditure—Milliken, Hatcher, Perry, Cowan, Dibrell, James Reilly, Campbell, of Illinois, Whiting, Norton, Wood, of Pennsylvania, Haralson.

Railways and Canals—Jones of Kentucky, Stone, Savage, Meade, Schleicher, Mackey, of Pennsylvania, Landers, Davy, Henderson, Frost, Hoge.

Mississippi Levees—Ellis, Hatcher, Wilshire, Money, Roberts, Young, Sheakley, Durrell, Whiting, Morey, Wallace, of Pennsylvania.

Reform in Civil Service—Whitehouse, Brown, of Kentucky, Throckmorton, Payne, Collins, Debold, Cutler, Hurlbut, Harris, of Massachusetts, Foster, Leavenworth.

Manufactures—Stone, Dibbrell, Ross, of New Jersey, Williams, of Alabama, Hopkins, Money, Burchard, Farwell, Bolton, of Rhode Island, Williams, of New Jersey, Hyman.

Militia—Cowan, Hereford, Bell, Seales, Candler, Walsh, Tarbox, Ross, of Pennsylvania, Darrall, Crouse, King.

Expenditures on Public Buildings—Metcalfe, Wilson, of West Virginia, Bagley, Pratt, Townsend, of New York.

Expenditures in Navy Department—Beebe, Mills, Sheakley, Burleigh, Baker, of New York.

Expenditures in State Department—Springer, Thompson, Caldwell, Wallace, Leavenworth.

Expenditures in Treasury Department—Ely, Bright, Hartzell, Williams, of Michigan, Plaisted.

Accounts—Williams, of Indiana, Roberts, Powell, Haskin, Forts.

Expenditures in War Department—Clymer, Robbins, of North Carolina, Blackburn, Bass, Danford.

Expenditures in Postoffice Department—Stone, Reagan, Walker, of New York, Stowell, Adams.

Expenditures in Interior Department—Mutchler, Boone, Anderson, Woodworth, Tufts.

Expenditures in Department of Justice—Caulfield, Candler, House, Starkweather, Joyce.

Mileage—Egbert, Bradford, Odell, Casnell, Walls.

Printing—Vance, of Ohio, Singleton, Ballou.

Committee on Rules—The Speaker, Randall, Cox, Blaine, Banks.

Enrolled Bills—Harris, of Georgia, Hamilton, of Indiana, Darrall.

Library—Clymer, Waddell, Monroe.

Select Committee on Centennial Celebration—Hopkins, Hancock, Barnum, Banks, Harrison, O'Brien, Williams, of North Carolina, Hardenbergh, Kelley, Blaine, Lawrence, Baker, of New York, Ritter.

Immediately after the announcement of the committees the House adjourned until Wednesday, January 5th.

PORTO RICO.

Town of Arecibo Destroyed by Earthquake.

HAVANA, December 20.—There was an earthquake in Porto Rico on the night of December 8th and 9th, which created great alarm. The capital, San Juan, was not damaged, but the town of Arecibo was almost entirely destroyed. Two churches and only six houses remain, and they are so badly damaged that they may fall at any moment.

PROVIDENCE.

Affairs of the Suspended Tool Company.

PROVIDENCE, December 20. — Daniel Morgan & Co., New York; Blake Bros. & Co., Boston, and James Y. Smith, Royal C. Taft, and Henry L. Kendall, of this city, have been invited to meet the officers of the Providence Tool Company tomorrow, to make an examination of the affairs of the company, and such recommendations to creditors as they may think advisable.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Suicide of a Dancing Master at Erie.

ERIE, PA., December 20.—Prof. Strawinski, a Polish dancing master, well known in the several cities where he has taught, committed suicide last night, or this morning, at the Ellsworth House, by shooting himself in the forehead with a small pistol. About eight o'clock a chambermaid heard him breathing heavily, but supposing him to be sleeping, did not attempt to waken him. At ten o'clock a boy entered his room to build a fire and found him lying on the floor with his face covered with blood. He was dressed as usual, wearing a dressing gown. On a table lay two letters, one addressed to the landlord and another to a jeweler in this city. He is still living, but his case is believed to be hopeless.

Following is a copy of the letter addressed to Colonel Ellsworth, proprietor of the hotel:

To Col. T. H. Ellsworth:

Not any person in this house is to blame for this my foolish act. You have all been very kind to me.

F. T. STRAWINSKI.

Colonel Ellsworth says that Strawinski owed but little so far as he can learn, and thinks that family difficulties were the cause of the suicide. He had lived unhappily with his wife, who resides at York, Pa., with their children. For several days he talked very despondingly, was unwell last week, and told the landlord he wished the sickness might be his last. The letter addressed to the jeweler refers to a sum of money borrowed of him, and begs him not to distress his family in collecting it.

The Missouri Express Car Robbery.

ST. LOUIS, December 20.—It is pretty definitely ascertained that the amount of money obtained by the express robbers Saturday morning, was $8,000. Had the robbery been committed before the train reached Mexico, Missouri, the amount would have been much larger, as it would have included all the Western remittance to Chicago. No arrests have been made, and the detectives do not say whether they have any clue which will lead to the capture of the robbers.

Sentence of Burbach.

MILWAUKEE, December 20.—In the United States Circuit Court, to-day, Burbach, who was convicted of conspiracy to defraud the revenue, was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment and a fine of $2,000 and one-half the costs of the trial. Sentence was suspended in the case of Reynolds, his partner.

CASUALTIES.

Accident in Meadville—One Man Killed and Five Injured.

CLEVELAND, December 20.—One span of the wagon road iron bridge, in course of construction over French creek, in Meadville, Pa., gave way to-day, carrying down twelve workmen, one of whom, J. Price, was instantly killed. Five others—Le Still, Anthony Price, James Green, Jas. Hack and Jas. Clark—were severely injured. Price leaves a family of a wife and three children.

Accidentally Shot and Killed.

CLEVELAND, December 20.—David Tennant, an old resident of Loraine county, accidently shot and killed himself this morning.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 20, 1875.

DUNCAN, SHERMAN & CO. ADJUDGED BANKRUPTS.

Duncan, Sherman & Co. have been adjudged involuntary bankrupts, on petition signed by over 200 creditors, whose claims aggregate $2,168,000.

THE SWEETHEART MURDERER INSANE.

The Commission in Lunacy have reported to Governor Tilden that Jacob Standerman, sentenced to be hanged for the murder of his sweetheart is insane, and he will doubtless be sent for life to the State Lunatic Asylum.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—For Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Lake region, stationary or falling barometer, southerly winds, cloudy and rain or snow, followed in the western portions by rising barometer and cooler northwest winds.

The colored people of Cincinnati held a meeting last night, and passed resolutions of respect to the memory of Vice President Wilson.

The examination of the Greek sailors at Nantes for complicity in the Lennie mutiny, has been suspended for the present, at the request of the Earl of Derby, the English Foreign Minister.

The famous trotting stallion "Rhode Island," formerly of the Sprague farm, but purchased last fall by Lieutenant Governor Sesson, of Rhode Island, for $6,000, was taken to the seacoast and died yesterday.

The Canadian Premier has notified the Montreal deputation that all the work on the Lachine Canal possible to be done in the winter would be contracted for at once, and thus provide work for one thousand men.

At a meeting of the Memphis General Council last night, Councilman Zent presented a series of charges against Mayor Loague, by Andrew Harrison, late Mayor's Clerk, chargidg the Mayor with stealing bonds and being privy to the stealing of others. The charges were referred to a special committee. Mayor Loague treats the charges with the utmost indifference.

At a meeting of the Methodist preachers of Cincinnati yesterday, a resolution was offered censuring Bishop Haven and the Boston preachers for their expression about a third term. The resolution was the subject of a long discussion, and the meeting adjourned without taking action on it.

Three Thousand Pianos.

There are about 3,000 Steinway Pianos, grand square and upright, in use in and about this city, and all of them purchased at the warerooms of H. Kleber & Bro., 122 Wood street. Quite a number have already been secured for holiday gifts, for people at all posted in music will have nothing else but a Steinway in the house. They outwear any two pianos of any other make, as the reference to Florence Kramer's and Dr. Spencer's letter will abundantly prove. So, don't throw away money on doubtful and second hand goods, but obtain a Steinway Piano or a Burdett Organ at Kleber's, and you can afford to look down upon and laugh at the victims of shoddy goods.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Those House Committees.

Nobody Satisfied Except the Few Favored Ones.

Aspect of the Appointments from a Sectional Point of View.

Pacific Railroad Committee Favorable to Texas Pacific.

Mr. Cox Concludes to Accept Banking and Currency.

Arrival of Ex-Secretary Delano for Business.

Ex-Congressman Rice, of Kentucky, Appointed Librarian of the House.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20, 1875.

The House Standing Committees.

The organization of the House Committees meets with very general dissatisfaction amongst Democrats. The appointment of Morrison, of Illinois, as Chairman of Ways and Means, has given rise to much comment. It is not thought that his experience and abilities entitle him to such preference. Independent of this, however, was Mr. Kerr's sense of obligation for the valuable service rendered by Mr. Morrison in the contest for the Speakership. Fernando Wood, as second on the same committee, is not at all satisfied. It is intimated that he will decline to serve. On the same committee are Messrs. Blaine, Kelley and Garfield. The committee is decidedly free trade in its leanings.

The Appropriation Committee, with Randall as Chairman and Hale as the leading Republican, is pronounced the strongest in its entire organization.

One yesterday declined that he would not accept the Chairmanship of Banking and Currency. He thinks better of the matter now, that he has it. The committee favor hard money.

Of the Pacific Railroad Committee, it is alleged that eight out of thirteen members are in favor of a subsidy to the Texas Pacific road.

The selection of J. Proctor Knott at the head of the Judiciary Committee is looked upon more as a joke than the result of sober thought.

Of the committees, Pennsylvania get seven appropriations—Invalid Pensions, Expenditure in the War and Interior Departments, Militia, Library and the Select Committee on the Centennial. New York and Ohio each receive five chairmanships. Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri each four. New England has four chairmanships, the Middle States twelve, the Southern States twenty-three, and the Western States sixteen.

Ex-Secretary Delano

has arrived in the city and will reside here during the winter. Though out of office, he is not out of politics, as he proposes to show later in the season.

Librarian of the House.

Ex-Congressman Rice, of Kentucky, has been appointed Librarian of the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20, 1875.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following appointments: George E. Jenkins, of Wisconsin, United States Consul at Kingston, Jamaica; William Nicholson, of Kansas, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Central Superintendency. Postmasters—Frederick E. Leiter, Charlotte, Mich.; Martin Haven, Albion, Mich.; A. Towle, Beatrice, Neb.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY [BRISTOW.]

The Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter in answer to an inquiry as to whether it is his purpose to make reappointment of clerkships in the Treasury Department among the States and Territories on the basis of population, states that he does not construe section 2 of the Act of March 3d, 1873, as directing reappointment to the extent of dismissing clerks from States which now have an excess of appointments, but only as a direction to the Secretary with reference to future appointments.

MCCONNELL VS. CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD.

The Secretary of the Interior to-day decided upon an appeal of the long contested case of the heirs of Murray McConnell *vs.* the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company, involving the title in land lying on the north and at the mouth of the Chicago river, upon which the depot of the company now stands, and of which the reputed value is several millions, the decision being in favor of the company and to the effect that their title to the land is valid.

GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SPEAKER'S COMMITTEES.

After the House of Representatives adjourned, immediately after the announcement of the committees, there was quite a general interchange of opinions among members in regard to the committees. Those who had been well provided for commended the Speaker's judgment or said nothing, but the prevalent expression was one of dissatisfaction. The Speaker's friends account for this by the paucity of the prizes and the preponderating number of competitors for them. On the other hand, there are many among the Democratic members who severely criticize the selections. Prominent Democrats are not the prominent positions, as unsuitable or as unfair to Congressmen of extended service, who have been passed over in the selection of chairmanships of important committee places, to make room for new men, without legislative experience. Of the forty-seven chairmanships [exclusive of the Committee on Rules, of which the Speaker is *ex-officio* chairman] twenty-four are given to Western members, ten to Southern and thirteen to Middle and Eastern States. Of the latter thirteen, six are of unimportance, being committees on expenditures in the various executive departments, &c. Of the chairmanships given to Western members, four are of the same description. Four or five of the Southern chairmanships are also unimportant. The West, therefore, holds the first place in the number of chairmanships of first and second class committees. Out of the total, forty-seven, Ohio and Missouri have each five chairmanships, Illinois four, Kentucky four, Indiana two and Tennessee two. Virginia and Pennsylvania have three each, North Carolina has two each and no other State has more than one. The composition of the Pacific Railroad Committee, tested by the recent vote on Mr. Holman's anti-subsidy resolution, is as follows: Chairman Lamar and Messrs. Throckmorton and O'Neil voted against it; Luttrell, Lynde, Thomas, Phillips, Garfield, Kasson and Blair for it, and Atkinson, of Tennessee, Walker, of Virginia, and Platt were recorded as not voting.

SENATOR M'DONALD'S STATE RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS.

The concurrent resolutions which Senator McDonald, of Indiana, will offer in the Senate after the holiday recess, as a substitute for those recently submitted by Senator Morton, and of which he gave notice today, have not yet been perfected, and therefore could not be presented. The following is a rough draft of them, containing the substance thereof, though the phraseology may be changed somewhat before their presentation to the Senate:

Resolved, By the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, That the people of the United States constitute a nation and are one people in the matters and to the extent provided for in the Federal Constitution and the amendments thereto.

Resolved, That the United Colonies declared and achieved their independence and the Federal Constitution formed and adopted by the several States formerly comprising the Confederacy and called the United States of America, the chief purpose of which was "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility and provide for the common defense," and the powers not granted by it to the United States nor prohibited by it to the States, were reserved to the States respectively and to the people.

Resolved, That as the powers were, at the time of the formation and adoption of the Federal Constitution, each sovereign, free and independent, except in so far only as such sovereignty had been expressly delegated to the Congress by the Articles of Confederation, the rights reserved to the States and to the people in the formation of the Federal Government were sovereign rights, which cannot be impaired without usurpation, and the only safe rule by which to administer the Federal Government with respect to the States and people, is a strict construction of the Federal Constitution and the amendments thereto and the assumption of no doubtful powers.

Resolved, That in the formation of the Federal Government it is the clear design to leave each State and the people thereof sovereign as to all matters of domestic concern, and to confer upon the Federal Government sovereign power as to such matters as might affect the general welfare of all the States, or as might be necessary to secure domestic tranquility—which powers are defined in the Federal Constitution and its Amendments. The people of the United States, therefore, from the nature and character of their Governments, State and National, and from their relation to each other, are not a national unity, in the ordinary sense of the term.

Resolved, That it being the design to make the Government formed under the Federal Constitution perpetual, the right of any State or any number of States to secede from the Union was not reserved. So far as the right has been claimed to exist, it should be deemed forever settled against it by the results of the late Civil War.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

FAILURE FOR NEARLY A MILLION.

LONDON, December 20.—Lawton & Head, merchants, shippers and insurance agents, have failed; liabilities estimated at $950,000.

L'AMERIQUE'S PASSENGERS.

The L'Amerique's passengers are all well, and leave Queenstown for Havre by the Ville de Brest.

CHINESE RIOT IN MALACCA.

LONDON, December 21.—A dispatch from Governor Jervois states that there is a Chinese riot in Malacca and that he has sent troops there to restore order.

THE DYNAMITE HORROR.

LONDON, December 21.—A letter to the *Times*, from Berlin, says Fuchs, the mechanician, had not delivered to Thompson any of the twenty additional machines ordered by him. The *Daily News* is informed that Thompson positively denied he had any accomplice in his plot.

France.

TUMULT IN THE HOUSE—MOTION FOR AMNESTY TO COMMUNISTS.

PARIS, December 20.—The Assembly balloted to-day for Senators, without result. M. Maquet, the Radical leader, introduced a motion that amnesty be granted to the Communists, and requested that it be declared "urgent." The tumult which followed was indescribable. The previous question was almost unanimously carried. The left considering a motion which cannot pass an electioneering trick, the affair causes a complete rupture between the extreme Radicals and the Left.

Marine News.

LONDON, December 20.—Steamships Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia, and Adriatic, from New York, arrived out.

HAVRE, December 20.—Steamship Suevia, detained here several days in consequence of a slight collision off Cuxhaven, will sail for New York to-morrow.

The steamer Faraday, having completed preparations for repairing the direct cable, cleared for New Providence, Bahama Islands.

NEW YORK, December 20.—Arrived—Steamer Wyoming, from Liverpool.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 20, 5 P. M.—Consols for money and the account 93 15-16. United States bonds—New 5's 105@106; 5-20's, 1865, 10s; do 1867, 107; 10-40's 105¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 96; Erie 14; Erie preferred 26.

PARIS, December 20.—Rentes 65 francs 82½ centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 20.—United States bonds—New 5's, 99⅝.

FIRE RECORD.

Destructive Fire at Little Rock,

LITTLE ROCK, December 20.—The *Gazette* block was burned this morning about six o'clock. It was a three story brick, fifty feet front by 100 deep. The fire caught in the rear part of Fred. Haas' cigar and liquor store, adjoining the *Gazette* office. Mr. Haas, on entering his store before daylight, lit a match with the intention of looking at his watch. The match broke in two and the lighted part fell on the floor, igniting a lot of spirits which had run out of a barrel on the floor during the night, and from that the flames spread until the whole building was on fire. Haas' loss is estimated at $11,000; insurance $4,800 on stock and $1,200 on fixtures, in the Liverpool, London and Globe. The loss of the proprietor of the *Gazette*, W. E. Woodruff, is placed at $12,000; insurance $18,000, as follows: Home Insurance Company, $2,500, $10,000 with J. T. Trezevant, Jr., and $5,000 in the Underwriters' and North British Company. One-half the insurance on the building, $4,000 is in the Phœnix Company. Avery, Tull & Co.'s bindery and stock was destroyed, incuding most of the presses and machinery. Loss, $6,000; insurance $3,000. J. H. Blocker lost his room furniture and clothing, valued at $150, with no insurance. Robert Ringland lost furniture and clothing, valued at $400, with no insurance. Major D. D. and Captain Samuel B. Adams, who had rooms in the same building, lost, though no great damage resulted. The *Gazette* will reappear to-morrow morning from the office of the late *Republican*.

Arkansas Court House Destroyed.

LITTLE ROCK, December 20.—The court house, one of the finest in the State, at Camden, was consumed by fire yesterday morning. The books, records and all papers pertaining to the clerk's office were destroyed.

CUBA.

Valmaseda Resigns and will Return to Spain.

HAVANA, December 20.—Captain General Valmaseda, considering the new rules introduced into the administration of the rebellious Cubans and Government incompatible with the power he ought to wield, in view of his knowledge of the country and people and his past and present services, has forwarded his resignation, which the King has accepted. The Captain General returned from the interior yesterday. He will transfer the Government to the hands of General Cardo, the next in rank, and sail for Spain on the 25th inst. Ex-Captain General Sanz has arrived here from Porto Rico, and also returns to Spain.

POLITICAL.

Colorado.

MEETING OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

DENVER, COL., December 20.—The Convention to frame a constitution for the State of Colorado, assembled here and temporarily organized to-day. A permanent organization will be effected to-morrow. The Republicans have a large majority, but will give a share of the offices to the minority.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

The President and family returned to Washington, from Philadelphia, yesterday afternoon.

A dispatch from Kingston, Jamaica, announces the death there, by apoplexy, of Edward Eddy, an American actor.

After a pastorate of half a century, Rev. W. H. Furness, of the First Unitarian Church, Philadelphia, has resigned his charge, and is succeeded by Rev. Joseph May, lately of Newburyport, Mass.

H. D. Winsor, who was arrested at Buffalo in June for forging the names of Bernard Stroh and E. W. Hudson to a large amount in paper, the proceeds of which were used in a Utah mining speculation, was acquitted at Detroit yesterday, by the jury, without leaving their seats on the ground that Winsor had authority to sign the names.

The following are the totals given in the comparative statement of the imports into the United States for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1876 and 1874, and contained in the annual report of Dr. Young, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics:

	1875.	1874.	Decrease
Total dutiable.....	$388,725,309	$415,924,589	$29,199,071
Total free.....	164,780,615	151,696,963	12,796,924
Total.....	$553,506,133	$565,861,248	$41,955,995
Entered for immediate consumpt'n.	152,562,882	177,494,432	24,931,550
Entered for warehouse.....	157,872,726	176,027,778	18,155,052
Brought in American vessels.....	382,949,568	405,720,135	22,370,567
Brought in foreign vessels.....			
Domestic exports for same period:	1875.	1874.	Decrease
Shipped in cars or other vehicles	$ 4,642,392	$ 5,645,253	$ 1,002,872
Shipped in American vessels.....	145,063,449	165,998,180	20,935,431
Shipped in foreign vessels.....	403,388,226	321,394,909	28,005,983
Total.....	$643,094,767	$693,039,054	$49,940,274

Chapman's Case.

An officer arrived here last evening, from Erie, with a warrant for J. F. Chapman, on a charge of obtaining goods by false pretenses. It appears that J. McCullough, wholesale liquor dealer, No. 165 Liberty street, was victimized to the extent of seventy-six dollars by Graves & Bro. bought a barrel of whisky and had it shipped to Erie. The same whisky was immediately reshipped to this city, the bill of lading being found in Chapman's possession. At the instance of Wm. Reardon, Esq., Judge Sterrett yesterday granted a writ of *habeas corpus* upon Warden Smith, to produce the body of Chapman, in court, this morning. If he is discharged, by the court, then the warrant of the Erie officer will come into play.

POLITICAL.

State.

The Democratic members of the Legislature from this city met last night at the office of John E. Faunce, to consider the character of the coming session. The Democratic House declared the session continuous, but the Republican Senate takes the ground that this will be a new session. After an excited time it was agreed best to adopt the Senate view. This will require the reintroduction of all bills lying over, with their advertisement and a new organization of the House. An effort will be made to replace Patterson, the blundering scholastic Speaker, with one who won't get the Democracy in so many scrapes.—*Philadelphia Day.*

General.

Of the thirty-three Representatives voting no on Mr. Holman's anti-subsidy resolution, twenty-two were Democrats and eleven Republicans. Of the whole number, seven came from Virginia, four from Texas, three each from North Carolina and Kentucky, four from Pennsylvania, two from Minnesota, two from Tennessee, two from Mississippi, two from Louisiana, two from Missouri, one from Arkansas and one from South Carolina. Twenty-seven came from the South, four from the East and two from the West.

If the Methodists at that meeting in Boston were unanimous for the third term for Grant, they are not in other parts of the country. We know of many Republican members of that church, as well as many of other denominations, who will not vote again for Grant. His nomination would cause a split in the Republican ranks, in fact, the winding up of the history of the grand old party that so proudly stood by the Government and saved it from destruction by the proslavery Democratic rebellion. No, no; let us have a statesman of ability, like Blaine or Bristow—for the people will never elect Grant, or any other man, three times to the Presidency, with the example of the Father of his Country before them.—*Hollidaysburg Register.*

One of the duties with which the Democratic House of Representatives will charge itself with this winter is the investigation of anything connected with the administration of the Government which a Democrat chooses to suspect of corruption. The present eagerness of three or four-score rebels, who ten years ago were fighting to destroy the Government, to save the country from ruin now by investigating the acts of an administration at the head of which is the rebel patriots having the fullest liberty to proceed.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

OUR NEW

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1875.

THE winter in the Northwest is an exceedingly mild one, and although there have been some cold days at St. Paul, there is scarcely any snow.

THE exports from Boston last week amounted to $358,546. The total exports during the year aggregate $32,137,139, against $28,196,281 for the corresponding period of 1874, an increase of $3,930,858.

GOVERNOR DAVIS, of Minnesota, will take strong grounds in his forthcoming message to the Legislature, in favor of a liberal appropriation to the Centennial. There is a growing enthusiasm throughout the entire Northwest on this subject.

CONGRESSMAN MORRISON, of Illinois, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, was a soldier in the Mexican war, and also served in the Union army during the rebellion, entering the service as Colonel, and not rising above that rank. His abilities are of a very moderate order.

A DECISION has just been rendered by the Commissioner of Patents, to the effect that "the corporate name of a corporation is a trademark from the necessity of the thing." Thus a corporation may record and sustain its own name as a trademark, although under ordinary circumstances the like privilege is denied to firms and individuals.

CONGRESS has adjourned until after the holidays. Thus far nothing practical has been done by the House, the majority not having even made any substantial progress toward unification of sentiment or harmonization of purpose. Never was there a time when the Democrats were so badly crippled for leaders or so much at disadvantage for a plan of action.

A REMARKABLE feat in glass manufacture was accomplished by the Phœnix Works, of La Salle, Ill., last week, the furnace having during that period turned out 44,700 square feet of window glass, averaging nearly fifty-six boxes per blower. This is claimed to exceed the yield of any other furnace of similar capacity in the United States during the same length of time.

THOSE reforms in New York Custom House matters were not instituted a moment too soon. The duty now collected from passengers at that port is greater by a hundred per cent. than ever before. Notwithstanding that this year the volume of travel is greatly below that of last year, there was an increase of receipts from this source of $42,157 90, for the six months beginning April 1 and ending September 30.

THE *Times'* annual review of the business operations of Chicago during the year shows it to have been one of considerable prosperity for her trade and commerce. A less quantity of grain than usual has been marketed, and the shipping interest has suffered from low freights, but there was a gratifying increase in the sales of general merchandise, the trade in provisions, live stock and lumber was unusually active, and the banking institutions are reported to be on a firm and enduring basis.

THE *Bulletin of the American Iron and Steel Association*, noticing the discovery of large beds of iron ore in Utah, says:

"Large beds of sandstone and fireclay are found in close proximity to the ores, and heavy veins of excellent coal, now being successfully worked, are only three miles distant. An *inexhaustible* supply of charcoal is also obtainable from surrounding forests."

We venture to say that a half dozen good-sized furnaces would exhaust in a very few years all the charcoal that Utah can produce.

THE ship-building interest of Oregon is making rapid strides forward, and promises soon to grow into extensive proportions and give employment to many hundreds of men. Several vessels of large carrying capacity are to be placed in course of construction soon, so as to be in readiness for the wheat crop of 1876. The timber is now being cut and seasoned, and is carefully selected from the yellow fir. The fastenings are purchased at the lowest cash prices in the East, and sent round the Horn, by which method they are laid down at the yards at a fractional cost only over that paid by Eastern shipbuilders.

THE various House Committees will not, at all events, be compelled to remain idle for want of something to do. There have already been presented nineteen House resolutions, fourteen joint resolutions, some 300 bills, thirty-three miscellaneous documents, and twenty-seven reports of investments, including the President's Message, making a total of 374 matters for consideration, besides several contested election cases, and an avalanche of petitions and memorials. No resolutions calling on the President to inform the House what he meant by throttling LEE, capturing Richmond and squelching the rebellion have been offered—as yet.

THE export movement of cotton fabrics from this country to England is still an uppermost topic among Lancashire dry goods men, and the interest exhibited seems rather to increase than lessen, since the question is at once suggested, why may we not export woolens as well, and may it not be possible, with the diminishing cost of production, to compete successfully in a much wider range of manufactured products? New York markets have recently filled orders from South America, and samples are being distributed through Vienna, Hamburg, Havre, and other centers of trade. The recent order for 25,000 pieces received in Fall River is the most notable outcome of the agitation, thus far.

THE Indian Protestant Church at Oka, a village near Montreal, having been recently burned by Roman Catholic French Canadians, an indignation meeting was held in the latter city last Saturday to protest against the outrage. The meeting was crowded, many Protestant clergymen and a number of leading citizens being on the platform. A letter was read from the Queen of England sympathizing with the Indians. Resolutions strongly denunciatory of the persecution to which these Indians have been subjected were passed, and a committee was appointed to carry the matter before the Dominion Government, as well as before the courts, and before the Privy Council, if necessary.

THE proposition of the Baptists of this country to celebrate the Centennial year by a combined effort in behalf of their institutions of learning—academies, colleges, universities and theological seminaries—is received with much favor. The general plan suggested includes two features, first the securing of a dollar from each man, woman and child connected with every church congregation and Sabbath school in the denomination; and second, the contribution of larger sums from those able to give them. Very considerable progress has, it appears, already been made in the work. In nearly every State the "Dollar Roll" is daily receiving additional names. Large additions have also been made to the endowments of several of the institutions. Two hundred thousand dollars have been added to the endowment of Columbian University, Washington, D. C.; Brown University, Madison University, Rochester University, Denison University, and others, and all the theological seminaries are reported to have felt the quickening influence of the movement.

A BELGIAN paper gives an account, which the St. Louis *Republican* translates, of a discovery recently made of a hitherto unrecognized but probably by no means unusual cause of boiler accidents, which is deserving of general attention. It appears that in one of the iron works of that country the tube of a boiler, heated by the waste heat of a puddling furnace, burst suddenly. On examining the rent it was was found that, for a certain length along the line of fracture, the boiler plates were corroded, so as to leave a thickness of not more than a single millemetre. The adjacent parts were perfectly sound and untouched, the iron was of good quality, the boiler not an old one, and subject to regular and minute inspection, but the fracture was not in the direct line of the draught. On making the repairs, the hands of the workers became soiled with a substance which would not wash off, and which in the course of a few hours exhibited unmistakable signs of corrosive action. Analysis showed it to consist chiefly of ferrous sulphate, with 11.85 per cent. of free sulphuric acid. The formation of sulphuric acid and its deposition on heat-generating surfaces would therefore seem to be a positive source of risk wherever mineral fuel is employed. Hence it is of importance that all external portions of boilers and boiler-tubing, not completely covered in with brick work, should be made easy of access and be constantly cleaned.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

A number of private gentlemen, calling themselves by the imposing organic name of "The American Board of Transportation and Commerce," have lately been holding a session at Chicago and airing their views on transportation and commerce. Who appointed this "American Board," or by what right its members speak for any one but themselves, has not been made clear. Their high-sounding name gives them no special authority; and the presumption is that, being self-appointed, they speak only for the select few they are able to gather at their slimly attended meetings.

This unauthorized "Board," then, has gravely informed a listening world that it is not in favor of Government aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad, which leads us to suspect that the Board is a JAY GOULD affair, and speaks mainly for New York and Chicago. It is very strongly in favor of Government expenditures for internal improvements; but it is opposed to any improvements in which its members have no interest. That is about the plain English of the "Board's" position.

If the point is conceded that the national Government has the power to undertake works of internal improvement, to help those in progress and to regulate the traffic on those completed, its duty to do so may also be conceded. The duty is included in the power; and this being conceded, the question of help to any particular enterprise is simply a question of expediency and propriety. The "American Board of Transportation and Commerce" has freely conceded this power, and claimed that the Government should exercise it for the benefit of a particular section of country; and we contend that, if the Government intervenes to help *one* section of the country with cheap transportation, it is bound likewise to intervene for *other* sections. The National Government was not framed for the express benefit of one or two parallels of latitude, but for the whole country, and if it stretches out its helping hand to the East, it must do the same to the West; and if the North claims its assistance, the similar claim of the South cannot be overlooked.

The great project of such people as composed the "American Board of Transportation" is to get the Government to build a four-track road from New York to Chicago or St. Louis, to be run by the national authorities and at cheap rates. Granted that the National Government has the power to do this; granted also that, having the power, it is its duty to use it; by what sort of reasoning can those who ask for such an exercise of national power turn around and say "No!" to a similar request from the people of the South and Southwest for Government aid in constructing the Texas Pacific? Will it be said that the Texas Pacific is a private corporation, and should not be helped? Then let the Government when it is asked to help it, exact a surrender of the private corporation and take the whole work in its own hands. We have no doubt the exaction would be readily complied with.

The whole of this controversy is centered upon the question of *power*. Has the National Government the power to build railroads? If it has, and the American Board of Transportation" admits that it has, the claim of the people in the region of the Texas Pacific for national assistance in railroad building is as good, at least, as that of any other region of country. To admit the power, and claim its exercise for their own benefit, and then demand a refusal of it for the benefit of others, is exceedingly selfish, mean and old-hunkerish. There are already a half-dozen railroad routes between New York, Chicago and St. Louis, while the people of the South and the Southwest are suffering from the absolute want of railroad facilities. To say, then, that the Government should help those who have helped and are able to help themselves, and should deny its aid to those who cannot aid themselves, is as unjust as it is illogical. No one section of the country can secure Government interference in railroad building by claiming that interference at the expense of other sections. The power, if it is exercised at all, must be exercised for the good of all, and not for the exclusive benefit of the few.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Hard times. Even the days are at their very shortest.

Present-givers should put as much of themselves as possible into their gifts.

The universal divinity. St. Nicholas is his name, and all the civilized world honors him.

An Illinois town boasts of a girl with three arms. She should have all her quarrels just.

Among the California exhibits at the Centennial will be a building constructed of pine cones.

Franklin, Ohio, must be a thrifty place. A woman aged seventy-five lately gave birth to a child there.

Ex-United States Senator Richardson, of Illinois, is seriously ill. He was attacked by paralysis Thursday night.

Mrs. One-Who-Holds-the-Lodge-Pole-With-Hands was before a Dakota grand jury as a witness the other day.

It is intimated that Pere Hyacinthe is going to abandon Catholicism and preach to a Boston Protestant society.

The Chicago *Times* finds its' an easy thing to say: "The Pope is up to several ounces of pure snuff every day."

Joyce is getting on. He has been already promoted to the monitorship of a tier of cells in the Missouri Penitentiary.

Swinburne has written a play on the Greek model, entitled "Erechtheus," which will be published in London this week.

A paper wagon body was last week protected by a reissue patent, and also a stiff paper vessel made with dovetail joints.

According to Professor Proctor, when our planet is dead, Jupiter, the sun, and sundry other of the planetary world will commence life.

The debt of California is only $4,201,656, a mere bagatelle for so prosperous a State. The assessed valuation of property is $611,500,000.

An Iowa man has just built the smallest steam engine on record. It weighs one pennyweight and seventeen grains and runs smoothly.

The Inman Steamship Company are reported to have decided to establish a regular line of steamers between Philadelphia and Liverpool.

General Babcock was arrested by his father-in-law, Mr. Campbell, who is the United States Marshal for the Northern district of Illinois.

The latest Centennial project is the organization of a transatlantic line of steamers to run between New York and the principal European ports.

The statistical returns of Champain county, Ohio, state that *twelve men* and twenty women died in childbirth in that county during the past year.

A new export. The *Shoe and Leather Reporter* says: "Within a few days there have been sales of wax and grain upper leather to go across the water.

Not a bad idea. A party of Michiganders intend to ship a building and furniture by rail to Philadelphia for their own use and occupancy during the Centennial.

Admirers of Shelley may rejoice. It is stated that papers will shortly be published showing that the so-called desertion of his first wife was in no sense his fault.

Figuring for brain food. "The *Advertiser* at Hot Springs, says the Prescott *Banner*, "is fond of cat-fish, and propose to take said fish for subscription. 'In like manner so will we.'"

A New York chemist has discovered a new coal tar color which promises to become of importance. It yields shades almost exactly like those of cochineal and almost as fast.

The deposits of the Maine savings banks exceed those of the national banks by $7,500,000, and there has been an increase in deposits during the year ending November 1, of $1,021,350.

Pulmonary consumption is now successfully treated by making an incision through the wall of the chest and drawing off the pus with a syringe, and afterward washing out the ulcers with weak carbolic acid.

A good plan. The students of Michigan University have hired a short-hand reporter to take the notes for them at each lecture in the forenoon, which are written out and printed in the afternoon of the same day.

The returns at the Tombs Police Court, New York, last Saturday morning, presented an unprecedented feature. There was not a single case of grand or petit larceny, felony, assault and battery, or misdemeanor reported as having occurred during the night.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE INSECT. By JULES MICHELET. Published by T. Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh and New York. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

There is something charming about this work, though to some it would appear strange to them, to see such an elegant book printed upon Insect Life; and it is well said that in it "literature and art are very happily wedded." The numerous illustrations of Gioconnelli and the superb typography in every respect reflect great credit upon the publishers. It is, however, much in keeping with the character of the typography of that old honored house. The book represents not only the insect tribes, but the scenery in which they revel, the homes they frequent, and the flowers on which they sip. Mr. Michelet brings into requisition the highest type of a Frenchman, and the presence of his wife in his excursions lend additional charms to his descriptions. The translation represents the author's text without reference to exactness in some things. The recognition of the Divine mind in His creative form is very distinctly marked. After dilating on "The Living Infinite," "Our Studies," he treats on the insect world in general and detail, in three books, respectively devoted to "Metamorphosis," "Mission and Arts of the Insect" and "Communities of Insects." Well may it be said: "Here is a book, with poetry, philosophy and wit, which has the charm of simplicity and the eloquence of admiration, and all a votive offering to the despised and humble beings that buzz and sing, crawl and fly around us, and yet die, unknown and unhonored, though they be important portions of an economy of which man is chief."

THE HISTORY OF THE ROBINS. By Mrs. Trimmer. With 70 illustrations. Published by T. Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh and New York. 1875. Pp. 234. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is another dainty work, charmingly illustrated, printing good and robed most exceptionally tasteful. It is a gem for the juveniles, and no parent will think it a whit too nice for *his* child. This work is another sign of the kingly reign of childhood. The old saying is reproduced, that "birds converse as well as sing," and the fair authoress sets her robins talking. It is worth while for young people to get their parents to buy it, to enjoy the "rich and rare" things of robin-life. The delightful philosophizing of the good Mrs. Trimmer running through its pages will be richly enjoyed by the little folk. It is among the most beautiful of gift books for childhood. We hope this excellent work may have a wide sale, as it richly deserves.

MICE AT PLAY: A Story for the Whole Family. By Nell Forest, with eighteen illustrations by Sol Eytinge. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

No one can read the romps and plays of childhood, reproducing the old saying, "When the cat's away, the mice will play," without feeling in hearty sympathy with the little folk. This bright, cheerful story, with its mirthful scintilations of wit, makes older ones almost envy the simplicity and purity of child-life. There is a naturalness about this story that takes hold of the young readers.

SIX TO SIXTEEN. A Story for Girls. By Johann Horatia Ewing, author of "The Brownies, and Other Tales," etc. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

To simply say that this is a story of domestic life is hardly sufficient. It is really a charming romance, written much after the form of a diary, in which are brought to the surface "hobby" notions of the sweet girls that are so beautifully sketched, and are highly relishable. The plot is extensive, with its chief developments in Yorkshire, England. The moral of the story is excellent: "Intellectual pleasures have this in common with the consolations of religion, that they are such that the world can never give nor take away." The style is flowing, tone elevated and wholesome throughout for youthful readers.

LITTLE CLASSICS. Edited by Rossiter Johnson. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

This volume, the sixteenth, completes the series, and, like the preceding ones, it more than meets the large expectations of readers. The handy size of the books, low price and admirable selection of themes, made the "Classics" popular from the outset. "Authors" is unique, and a fitting "clasp" for the series. There is briefly and daintily sketched the biographies of the one hundred and fifty-one authors represented in the series, among whom we name Colonel Richard Realf, of the editorial staff of this paper. We join with the New York *Tribune* in saying "the editor has evinced sound learning, excellent judgment, and a catholic, but refined taste in his choice of materials," and we add, the publishers deserve the thanks of the public for their enterprise and excellent judgment.

HAND-BOOK FOR CHARCOAL BURNERS. By G. Swedelius. Translated from the Swedish by R. B. Anderson, A. M., Professor of Scandinavian Language in the University of Wisconsin. Edited with Notes by W. J. Nicodemus, A. M., C. E., Professor of Civil Engineering in the University of Wisconsin. Published by John Wiley & Son, New York. For sale by S. S. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This work is the result of a composition of treaties on charcoal and peat, is chiefly relating to charcoal making, and is therefore appropriately named a "Hand book for Charcoal Burners." The claim that it is the best treatise on the manufacture of charcoal that has ever been written, seems well founded. The clearness of the text in all that pertains to the methods of manufacture, tables of measurement, and excellent woodcut illustrations, render the work valuable, instructive and entertaining.

THE SOVEREIGNS OF INDUSTRY. By Edwin M. Chamberlins. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

From the dedication of this work to W. H. Earle, President of the National Council of the Order of Sovereigns of Industry, its general scope may be readily judged. After an introductory chapter follows, "The Struggle for Existence," "The Organization of Labor," "The Association of the Laborers," "The Sovereigns of Industry" and last "Conclusion." The Appendix contains the Constitution and officers of this Order. Aside from the special interest that employers and employees have in a work of this kind, it is very valuable to the general reader, and contains much that is useful for all classes of readers to know.

NOTES OF TRAVEL IN SOUTH AFRICA. By J. C. Andersson, author of "Lake Ngami," "The Okavango River," etc. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. For sale by J. W. Pittock & Co., Pittsburgh.

Much as has been published of late about Africa, the interest has not abated to know more of this benighted country. Anderson's book is a real contribution to science, and abounds with startling adventures in his travels. The book is really fresh and charming, and from beginning to end the interest of the reader is firmly held. His former works have been regarded with much favor, though his pen-notes in South Africa are likely to be more popular and more widely read. In his severe encounters and difficulties, while exploring, the reader's sympathies are aroused and especially in view of his untimely death from exposure and wounds inflicted by wild beasts and other causes. There is also much valuable information imparted in connection with his travels that many will highly prize.

PERSONAL.

The recovery of the eminent jurist, Charles O'Conor, which is now reported as being no longer in doubt, will be one of the most remarkable cures on record.

There is talk about inviting the Duke of Edinburgh and his wife—the son of Queen Victoria and daughter of the Czar of Russia—to come over for the Exhibition, the next royal visitors they are said to be in a mood for travel, and very amiable towards Americans.

Colonel John Hay has been appointed by the United States Centennial Commission at Philadelphia, to deliver on the 2d of July next an oration on the life and character of Richard Livingston, a prominent signer of the Declaration of American Independence.

There is a maiden of eighty-two at Taunton, Mass., who has never seen a train of cars, dresses in centennial fashions, reads her Bible by tallow dips, keeps warm by the side of a monster fire-place, and has not called on a new neighbor in five years. She is going to the Centennial, however.

Professor F. A. Walker of Yale College, late superintendent of the census, has been selected as a sort of general chairman of all the judges or committees of award of the Centennial Exhibition, with the duty of supervising and editing the final volume of reports. It is a very important place, and he is a very proper person to fill it.

Hon. James Birney, appointed to the vacant ministry of The Hague, is a son of James G. Birney, of Abolition days, and brother of General D. B. Birney, of war fame. He is a wealthy resident of Bay City, Mich, and has held a number of prominent positions in that State, including the office of Circuit Judge, Lieutenant Governor and member of the State Constitutional Convention.

The Supreme Court of New York was the scene of an exciting contest, a few days ago, between the mother of a child and a hired nurse. The mother had given her child to a German woman to nurse, and when she asked for its return, the nurse had become so much attached to it that she refused to surrender it. A writ of attachment was issued, and the nurse brought into court. The moment the nurse appeared with the child, the mother ran to her and pulled the child out of her arms. The other woman seized the child's legs and tugged at them; both women screaming with all their might. The court officers separated them, and the mother rushed out of court with her prize. The nurse was then carried out in a fit of hysterics.

FROM ST. PAUL, MINN.

Counterfeiter Convicted and Sentenced—Work Done by the Secret Service Officers During the Past Year.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

ST. PAUL, MINN., December 18, 1875.

The trial of George Woolsey and Samuel Piser, who were arrested here last summer, for having in their possession counterfeit plates and manufacturing counterfeit national bank bills, was concluded yesterday afternoon and given to the jury. As is usual in defending villains, the counsel of the defense took the ground that the defendants were led into it by one George Woods, and duped into the commission of the offense by the officers of the Secret Service, in order to give honor and *eclat* to their force. With the most brazen-faced affrontery, the counsel for the defense held up his clients as green and inexperienced country boys, who have never left their mother's apron strings, and through Woods' trickery against them were brought to St. Paul and there kept house for Woods, while the manufactured the money. On the trial, however, it transpired that Woolsey had been in the penitentiary for horse-stealing, and that he had been for years the intimate associate of the Ballards; and on the Ballard gang being broken up by the Secret Service, their property, including the plates in Woolsey's possession at the time of his arrest, were part of those which the Ballards had used.

The charge of Judge Nelson bore heavily on the prisoners, and he plainly told the jury that the plea that the Secret Service officers had used one of the counterfeit gang to detect and hand over the rest, was a weak subterfuge, as it was not expected that the Government could get honest men into the secrets of rogues; but officers must be permitted to ferret out crime in their own way. The counsel for the Government, however, did not insist on the conviction of Piser, as he was evidently only in the crowd as a day laborer, and he was consequently acquitted, while Woolsy was convicted and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

The trial has created considerable excitement, and, strange as it may appear, the rogues had considerable outside help, which I think was worked up by their confederates. That they have confederates who were to get the money after being manufactured, there is no doubt, and you could see their tracks at every step in the trial.

The Secret Service, under Chief Elmer Washburne and his Assistant Benson, has been doing some noble work during the past nine months, having sent to the various penitentiaries over 150 convicts, and captured forty sets of plates of various denominations, over $200,000 of money so close an imitation of the genuine that $150,000 more had been received into the Treasury Department as genuine, and beside this, within the last month a large number more have been captured, who remain to be tried. In the arrest of Driggs and Ben Boyd alone $150,000 was captured in counterfeit notes.

The Secret Service, under the present management, has done very effective service, and take all connected with the force, a more able, gentlemanly and honorable set of men is hard to find; and while it is kept in present hands the friends of the people are safe, and the two thousand four hundred national banks, with their circulation, will be protected. PAYSON.

Wyoming Territory is in a very satisfactory condition. There is no public debt, the treasury has on hand a snug sum, and the assessed value of property is nearly $9,000,000, or almost double what it was two years ago.

The Duke of Edinburgh is writing a comic opera in three acts.

A Health-Promoting Stimulant.

Physicians, who certainly ought to be the best judges of such matters, declare that wholesome stimulation is not only desirable, but essential in many instances. When the temporary excitement of a social glass is confirmed and rendered permanent, as in the case of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, by the action of tonic and alterative principles combined with it, it becomes infinitely more efficacious as a preventative of physical decay and a corrective of those conditions of the body which invite disease. The Bitters have received the unqualified sanction of medical men who have observed the effect of that popular stimulative cordial as a remedy for weakness, nervousness, dyspepsia, constipation, inactivity of the liver, malarious fevers, and many other disorders. Its basis is second only to the purest liquor known to commerce, and itself possessing tonic properties of no mean order.

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NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.
Assets January 1, 1873 - $778,251 56.
CHARTERED IN 1862.
Open daily from 9 A. M. o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 9 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent. computed from the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually, in January and July. Book of By-Laws, &c., furnished on application.
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50 PER CENT.
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Men's Overcoats,	$5,	worth $ 7 50
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Boys' Overcoats,	$3,	worth 5 00
Boys' Overcoats,	$5,	worth 7 50
Boys' Overcoats,	$8,	worth 12 00
Men's Suits,	$7,	worth 10 00
Men's Suits,	$10,	worth 15 00
Men's Suits,	$16,	worth 24 00
Boys' Suits,	$2,	worth 3 00
Boys' Suits,	$3 50,	worth 5 00
Boys' Suits,	$5,	worth 7 50
Boys' Suits,	$7,	worth 10 00
Single Pants,	$2,	worth 3 00
Heavy Chinchilla Coats,	$4,	worth 6 00
Double breasted Coats,	$6,	worth 10 00
Heavy Winter Coats for Men,	$3,	worth 5 00

Jeans Pants, 95c; Knit Jackets, 75c; Woolen Socks, 20c.

STRASSBURGER & JOSEPH,
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ASSIGNEES' SALE
OF
HATS, CAPS and FURS,
On WEDNESDAY, December 22d, 1875, at 10 o'clock A. M. By order of John M. Osborne, Assignee of C. H. Paulson, will be sold at the store, No. 117 Wood street, city of Pittsburgh, a large and elegant stock of
HATS, CAPS and FUR GOODS,
embracing everything usually found in a first-class Hat Store. Terms cash.
9p JOHN D. BAILEY, Auctioneer.

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Picturesque Glimpses of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. Complete in 15 Parts: 50 cents each. ALLEN, LANE & SCOTT and J. W. LAUDERBACH, Publishers, Philadelphia.
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The BOSTON JOURNAL, in a recent issue, says: "Picture to yourself what a magazine for children ought to be—how bright and winning in contents, how pure and stimulating in teaching, how resplendent with pictures, and then turn over the pages of ST. NICHOLAS, and you will find your ideal realized.

THE CHICAGO INTER-OCEAN says: "ST. NICHOLAS is an institution of which Young and Old America are as proud as England is of *Punch*. A house without ST. NICHOLAS," continues the writer, "does not deserve to own any boys and girls; no dog should wag its little tail while pressing its nose through the area railings; emphatically, we would observe that should the sun confescend to shine upon that house, his solar majesty would make a big mistake."

THE FIRST VOLUME OF ST. NICHOLAS was a surprise even to the public that had heartily welcomed it, number by number. Newspaper critics expressed enthusiastic approval; children and parents were alike delighted, and congratulatory letters from distinguished men and women poured in upon the publishers and editor. CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER wrote: "I do not see how it can be made any better, and if children don't like it, it is time to change the kind of children in this country;" WHITTIER, our great poet, wrote: "It is little to say of this magazine that it is the best child's periodical in the world;" and words of hearty commendation came across the ocean from such eminent workers and popular favorites of the young as GEORGE MACDONALD, CHRISTINA ROSSETTI and CANON KINGSLEY.

Beautifully bound, superbly illustrated, and filled with good things from the best writers (including three long serial stories), the first volume of ST. NICHOLAS, complete in itself, is a fine Christmas gift for girls and boys to-day than any single book in the market, excepting

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Promises even greater attractions than the previous volumes. A st ong feature of the new volume is an AMERICAN SERIAL STORY.

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Giving the adventures of a party of boys on their long journey across the plains, with a vivid portraiture of their LIFE IN CALIFORNIA DURING THE DAYS OF THE GOLD-FEVER. Mr. Brooks brings to this work, in addition to his well-known literary gifts, a thorough familiarity with the features of that wild country and the people then flocking toward it. What he has to say of them is pervaded with a subtle and intense savor of reality that enables the reader to follow the characters in their adventures with a positive sense of companionship. The contagion of the "gold-fever;" the great difficulties and dangers of the long journey; the perils across the plains and mountains, and finally the adventurous, half civilized, and yet, in a certain rude way, poetic life in the mines of California, are all described with wonderful truthfulness and skill. Add to this the elevated tone pervading the work, and the irresistable attraction with which such a narrative possesses for boys, and the value of this stirring, healthy serial becomes evident.

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We would also announce that, in a few days, among other importations not yet landed, we will open a very large line of
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Embracing all the newest choice dark shades and desirable colors, such as Myrtle Green, Navy Blue, Prune, Plum, at considerable less than former prices.

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PLAIDS, CAMELS' HAIR CLOTHS and KNICKERBOCKER EFFECTS at Greatly Reduced Prices. A Large Stock of
LADIES' FINE FURS,
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LADIES' CLOTH CLOAKS,
SACQUES AND JACK

The Pittsburg Commercial: Tuesday, December 21, 1875.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 20, 1875.

The day's business among the banks showed no new features, money being easy and abundant, while lenders continue cautious in their selections of paper. Rates of discount or prime sixty or ninety day's paper ranged from 7@9 per cent. at the banks, principally 8@9 per cent., while some exceptionally well secured notes of short date went as low 6 per cent. There is nothing new in Eastern exchange, and the supply of bills making against shipments of wool, live stock, and Pittsburgh manufactures, while not large, appears to be about adequate to all requirements. The commercial situation generally is a very quiet one. As the end of December approaches, wholesale trade, as usual, is apt to subside into limited dimensions, with no very sanguine expectations in any quarter of renewed activity until the incoming of the new year affords clearer views of the business future. Merchants, for the time being, are closing up old accounts rather than opening up new ones, at the same time that there is probably as much buying and selling as there usually is at this season. The retail trade exhibits, all things considered, a healthful activity, and this may be expected to last for a week or two to come.

—The New York *Bulletin* calls attention to a much needed reform in the management of the Treasury in connection with the work of resumption. The law leaves it entirely at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury to determine what amount of gold shall be accumulated in the Treasury as a reserve in anticipation of resumption. A matter of so much moment should not be left in such an uncertain condition. The public should know in advance exactly what the reserve coin is to be. Such knowledge is essential to public confidence in the ability of the Government to do what it undertakes. So long as this is a mere matter of official option, the public have nothing to rely upon; on the contrary, they are exposed to a doubt whether resumption may not possibly be embarrassed by the Secretary of the Treasury attempting to hoard either an impossibly large sum or an amount inadequate for the purpose. The law, therefore, should be so amended as to say what shall be the ratio of coin in the Treasury to outstanding United States notes on the day of resumption. If that ratio were fixed at thirty per cent. of the volume of greenbacks, we think it would be regarded by the public at large as amply meeting the requirements of the case. Of course, it would be necessary at the same time to see to it that the Government were provided with a sufficient surplus of revenue to enable it to steadily accumulate this reserve and, for the purpose, the ordinary expenditures of the Departments, which as we have frequently shown, are excessive beyond endurance, should be severely contracted.

—The dealings in local stocks and securities are limited, and chiefly of a private character, and it is rather difficult to sell stocks at the quoted values. We hear of sales in Philadelphia of Pennsylvania Safe Manufacture Company's stock at 75½; Northern Pacific 7-30s at 15; Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis 7s at 78½, a slight decline; Allegheny Valley Railroad 7s, Eastern extension, at 85; do 6-30s at 86½; Pennsylvania Railroad stock at 53; Oil Creek and Allegheny Valley Railroad stock at 10¾@11. The following table gives capital stock, surplus, dividends and approximate stock quotations of the national banks of this city and Allegheny:

Natl Banks	Capital	Surplus	Last Dividend	Dividends for the year	Asked	Dividend, period and amount last paid	Bid
First	$ 750	161	160	190	*160	2½, Oct., '75, qr.	.....
Second	300	72	100	115	118	4, Nov., '75, 4m.	.....
Third	500	185	100	120	122½	5, Nov., '75, 4m.	.....
Fourth	300	108	100	100	122½	5, Nov., '75, 4m.	.....
Fifth	100	16	100	122½	*125	5, July, '75, 6m.	.....
Citizens'	200	100	50	100	*135	5, Nov., '75, 6m.	.....
Citizens'	800	219	50	.....	*87	5, Nov., '75, 6m.	.....
Union	200	14	50	.....	65	5, May, '75, 6m.	.....
Diamond	200	21	100	.....	*108	4, Nov., '75, 6m.	.....

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

"December 20, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:00 M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	113⅝	113⅝	113⅜	113⅝	113⅝	.....
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup..	119¾	.....	.....	.....	119¾	.....
5-20's, 1865	119¾	.....	.....	.....	119¾	.....
5-20's, 1865, registered	119	.....	.....	.....	119	.....
5-20's, 1867, registered	119	.....	.....	.....	119	.....
5-20's, 1867	119¾	.....	.....	.....	119¾	.....
5-20's, 1868	122	.....	.....	.....	122¾	.....
10-40's, registered	117⅜	.....	.....	.....	117⅜	.....
10-40's, coupons	118	.....	.....	.....	118	.....
Currency 6's	122	.....	.....	.....	122	.....
New 5's, registered	117⅜	.....	.....	.....	116⅜	.....
Western Union Tel	18	18	18	17¾	18	.....
Pacific Mail	19⅜	19⅜	19⅜	19⅜	19⅜	.....
Panama	125	.....	.....	.....	125	.....
Adams Express	102¾	.....	.....	102¾	102¾	.....
Wells, Fargo Ex	84	.....	.....	84	84	.....
American Express	57½	.....	.....	57½	57½	.....
United States Express	77½	.....	.....	77½	77½	.....
New York Central	103¾	.....	.....	104	104¾	.....
Erie	15	15¼	15¼	15¼	15¼	.....
Michigan Central	59½	59½	59	59	59¼	.....
Michigan Southern	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	.....	.....
Illinois Central	94¾	.....	95	.....	.....	.....
Erie, & Pittsburgh	89¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chicago & Northwest	38¾	.....	.....	.....	38¾	38¾
Rock Island	104	.....	104	.....	104	.....
St. Paul, common	34½	.....	34½	.....	34½	34½
Do preferred	65¼	.....	65¼	.....	64¾	65¼
Wabash, common	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fort Wayne	100	.....	.....	.....	98¾	.....
Ohio & Mississippi	16¾	.....	.....	.....	16¾	16¾
Union Pacific	74¾	.....	74¾	.....	74¾	.....
Harlem	130	.....	.....	.....	130	.....
Hannibal & St. Jos.	20¾	21	20¾	.....	20¾	.....
Iron Mountain	15	.....	.....	.....	13	.....
C. & I. C.	4	.....	.....	.....	4	.....
Kansas Pacific	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	102¾
Missouri 6's	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central..	51⅞	52	.....
Reading	55¾	55¼	.....
United Co's of N. J.	135	135½	.....
Oil Creek	10¾	11	.....
Allegheny Valley.....	9⅝	9¾	.....
Central Transp'n Co.	46¼	46½	.....
Lehigh Transportation	52	.....	.....
P. C. & St. L. m. b....	77½	78½	.....

Groceries.

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 113⅝.

GOLD

opened at 113¾, declined to 113¼, advanced to 113⅝, and fell off to 113⅜, the closing price. Rates for carrying 1 to 5 per cent., and for borrowing flat.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Governments quiet. Railroad bonds in the afternoon were ⅛@¼ per cent. lower for Erie seconds, Union Pacific sinking funds and Northwestern gold bonds, but otherwise the market was steady and without change. State bonds quiet, except Tennessee, which are lower on the statement that the January interest will not be paid. Stocks more active but weak and lower. The greatest decline was in Michigan Central, which dropped from 59¼ to 58. Lake Shore declined to 90¾, Northwestern to 38¾, St. Paul to 65¼, Ohio and Mississippi to 16¾, Union Pacific to 74¾, Erie to 15¼ and Pacific Mail to 19. Wabash fell off to 9¾ on foreclosure proceedings under gold bonds issued some years since for steel rails. United States Express strong and advanced to 81½. Other changes slight. Transactions at the Stock Exchange aggregated 96,000 shares, of which 27,000 were Pacific Mail, 4,500 Western Union, 4,000 Northwestern, 6,000 St. Paul, 9,000 Erie, 34,000 Lake Shore and 3,500 Michigan Central.

The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.	
W. U. Telegraph..	73⅜
Pacific Mail	19¾
Harlem	130
Do preferred	135
Adams Express.....	102¾
Wells Fargo Ex....	84
American Ex.....	57½
United States Ex..	81½
New York Central..	104¼
Erie	15¼
Do preferred	30
Michigan Central..	58
Michigan Southern	90¾
Illinois Central...	95
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	89¾
Chicago & Northwest	38¾
Do preferred.....	65¼
Rock Island.....	104
St. Paul, common	34½
Do preferred....	65¼
Fort Wayne.....	98¾
Ohio & Mississippi	16¾
Union Pacific	74¾
Canton	74
Cumberland	31
Western Union Tel	18
Quicksilver	10¾
Do preferred....	20
Mariposa	3
Do preferred....	10½
New York Mail....	15¾
Do preferred....	30
Pacific Mail.....	19¾
Panama	125
Atlantic & Pac Tel	9¾
Ind'a & Cent. R'y	4
Indiana Central....	4
Northwestern.....	38½
Do preferred.....	65¼
Union Pac. stock..	74¾

GOVERNMENTS.	
U. S. coupons.....	119½
U. S. coupons, 1881	119¾
5's, 1885	111¾
5's, 1904	113
6's, 1867, registered	122½
6's, 1867, coupon..	122¾

STATE BONDS.	
Tennessee 6's, old	50
Tennessee 6's, new	50
Virginia 6's, old..	50
Virginia 6's, new..	50
Missouri 6's	91
Louisiana 6's, old	60
Louisiana 6's, new	60
Louisiana 7's	60
Louisiana levee 6's	60
Alabama 5's	70
Alabama 8's	100
Georgia 6's	90
North Carolina 6's, old	30
North Carolina 6's, new	30
South Carolina 6's, old	50
South Carolina 6's, new	50
South Carolina 7's, new	50

RAILROAD BONDS.	
Pacific of Mo. 1st m.	90
Pacific of Mo. 2d m.	80
Pacific of Mo. 3d m.	70
Pacific of Mo. land g.	70
Erie 2d m.	75
Erie 7's	90
Illinois Central 7's	100
Chicago & Alton..	97½
Chicago & Alton s. f.	105½
Ohio & Mississippi.	103
Delaware & Lack..	119¾
Atlantic & Pac Tel	78½
Indiana Central....	4
Harlem & Erie....	30
Union Pac. stock..	74¾

—The following table shows the receipts of flour, grain and provisions at the following cities for the week ending December 18, 1875, and for the corresponding week in 1874:

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Barley, bush.	Rye, bush.	Provisions, lbs.
Chicago	37,000	70,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000	1,000
Milwaukee	6,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Toledo	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Detroit	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cleveland	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
St. Louis	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Peoria	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Duluth	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Minneapolis	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cincinnati	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Indianapolis	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

—The following is

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV. } Room 23, First National Bank. } PITTSBURGH, PA., December 20, 1875.

Time.	Bar	Th'r.	Hum	Wind. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M..	30 370	26	76	.....	Calm.	Cloudy
2 P. M..	30 275	51	59	S. W.	Fresh.	Fair.
9 P. M..	30 303	40	82	S.	Gentle	Clear.

Mean barometer...30.312 Highest thermom....52
Mean thermon..... 39 Lowest thermom.... 9

Heavy Suit.

Messrs. Hampton and Dalzell, attorneys for the Allegheny Valley Railroad, yesterday entered suit against the estate of the late William Phillips for $357,222 60.

The Rattigan Cases.

In order to save the bill of costs which might be incurred, were these cases sent before the Grand Jury, it is said that the Assistant District Attorney will to-day move the Court to quash the informations.

The High School Lectures.

The fourth of the series of scientific lectures by members of the High school faculty will be delivered to-morrow evening. Prof. L. H. Durling will discourse on "The Foundations Stones of Chemical Physics" and will give interesting experiments.

Your Selections

for Christmas gifts will be made this week, and if you have decided to present your friend, or relative, with a fine gold watch and chain, a silver tea-set, a cameo set of jewelry, a diamond ring or pin, don't fail to go to Geo. W. Haslett's, No. 77 Smithfield street, and examine his stock and prices before you make your purchases.

Corporal Punishment.

The *Educational Voice* says: "During the last few years the rod has been used but little by the best teachers of the city, and the general discipline of the school has, in the meantime, steadily improved. There yet remains one step to be taken by all progressive teachers, and that is, to refuse, under all circumstances, to administer punishment of this kind—to say to directors and parents that if they establish the whipping post in the school room, they must at the same time employ a person who is willing to peform the degrading work which it imposes."

Little Boy Drowned.

About four o'clock yesterday afternoon a little boy six years of age, named Michael Enzel, was drowned in the Monongahela river, near the foot of Nineteenth street, South Side. The boy's parents reside on Merriman's alley, in the Twenty-sixth ward, not far from the scene of the unfortunate occurrence. But a short time previous he wandered away from home and went down on the ice, which broke with his weight and he was lost. Deputy Mayor Hoerr empanneled a jury and adjourned the inquest until this evening. The father's name is Jacob Enzel.

Relief For the Poor.

Mayor Phillips, of Allegheny, in compliance with a request of a number of philanthropic citizens, has issued the following:

"Having been requested to call a meeting of the citizens of Allegheny, to consult as to the best way of relieving the hundreds in our community who are suffering for the want of food, I therefore ask all those who are interested in this matter, to be present in the Select Council Chamber on Tuesday, the 21st inst., at 7:30 P. M.

O. PHILLIPS, Mayor.
ALLEGHENY, December 20, 1875."

A Missing Man.

Frederick G. Miller, a former Sheriff of Clearfield county, Pa., left his home in Clearfield county, on the morning of the 30th of November last, for Indiana, Pa., and no trace of him can be found. Mr. Miller had but one arm, (the left being off near the shoulder); was of round, plump form, about five feet nine inches in height, and weighed between one hundred and ninety pounds; full and rather healthy-looking smooth face, and wore a wig of a light chestnut color. It is thought he was deranged. Any information concerning him communicated to D. W. Moore, Clearfield, Pa., will afford great relief to a large circle of distressed relatives and friends.

The Temperance Alliance.

The Temperance Alliance met yesterday afternoon. The committee in charge of the question of asking legislation for the restoration of the local option laws, reported that it was unwise to ask for such legislation. Reports of different meetings were received, but nothing of importance was transacted.

Mr. Sayford asked for the co-operation of all temperance and Christian people in canvassing with the children, and said that two thousand signers to the pledge could be secured. Mr. Bryce offered a resolution, which was adopted, expressing confidence in Messrs. Sayford and Harris, who are now securing throughout the country among the children.

Coal Miner Drowned.

On Saturday evening, about dusk, three coal miners, employed at O'Neill's coal works, attempted to cross the Monongahela river in the Elrod's Station. When about half way across the ice broke, and the three were precipitated into the stream. Two of the number were rescued, but one, named Daniel McGowan, after a number of unsuccessful attempts which were made to save him, was drowned by the current under the ice and drowned. His body was recovered near Mckeesport, on Sunday. Mr. McGowan was a married man and leaves a wife and several children, and is spoken of as a highly respectable citizen by those who knew him. An inquest was held, the jury returning a verdict in accordance with the facts stated above.

Mr. Siebeneck's Statement.

Joseph G. Siebeneck, Esq., of the *Chronicle*, at the request of Mr. Lavely, published a statement yesterday, in which he denies as false the allegation that he proposed to the Executive Committee of the Tradesmen's Industrial Institute, to "control the press of Pittsburgh," in the interest of the Republican party, as stipulated sum. He pronounces the idea an absurdity, because the local press were heartily in favor of the Exposition and would need no incentive to urge its claims upon the public. He might have cited, as an additional reason for pronouncing the statement absurd, that no newspaper manager for a moment believes that any man, either in or out of the business, could use the columns of the daily press in any such way. Mr. Siebeneck says:

"We expect, we make this statement simply at the request of Mr. Lavely; we think that his character is so well established in this community as a high-toned Christian gentleman that such action on our part is unnecessary; and further, that the charge was made on its face, so frivolous and absurd, and so manifestly made for the purpose of diverting public attention from the real issue, as not to deserve more recognition than it had received from Mr. Lavely."

While it is quite superfluous for the press to indorse the character of Mr. Siebeneck, as it is for him to corroborate Mr. Lavely, yet we will not speak the sentiment of the editorial fraternity when we say that none stand higher, in the profession, for honor and integrity, than does Mr. Siebeneck.

Ancient versus Modern Presbyterianism.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

St. Paul commanded the women to keep silence in the churches; and, doubtless, were he alive to-day, with his unswerving convictions concerning the silent sphere of women, he would command them to be unheard, also in the newspapers. Perhaps for the same reason the good brethren of the Second Presbyterian Church in this vicinity are not aware that at least one woman is interested in the later proceedings of the Allegheny Presbytery. Taus far the "pros" and cons" have both appeared somewhat one-sided, and manifest that the keynote of the Sewickley session seemed to be sounded when their Moderator, Rev. J. B. Bittinger, boldly and rather triumphantly quoted in self-defense, Dr. A. A. Hodge's proof text—*a man must be either an angel or a fool to believe all the doctrines of the Confession of Faith.*"

Having been a dear friend of Dr. Hodge's church for a number of years, and believing him to be the most consistent champion and exponent of these doctrines *in toto*; and being accustomed from childhood to believe the Westminster Confession of Faith to be founded upon an unanswerable Scriptural basis, every sentence crystallized in proof text—imagine my consternation on being told that believing them made one "an angel or a fool!"

In these latter days, it is true, the faith of woman has been severely tried. We are not expected to investigate, but simply endorse our inquiries unduly. We are so "credulous." Our ministers and elders preach the doctrines of our church and we, like the "priest-ridden Romanists," are expected tacitly to accept them. Should we be so presumptuous as to part with commendable docility. But a bomb-shell is thrown into our midst! And now stunned and astounded we humbly ask what particular points in this old confession of the fathers are obsolete? Have we a true Calvinistic Presbyterian Church, or has she either outgrown herself or retrograded? If some of its teachings have been found to be not only impracticable but unscriptural, may not all become so in time?

Women, you know, are "so illogical." "They jump at conclusions and never stop to reason"—therefore, dear Presbyterian people of Sewickley, especially Dr. Hodge, whom we have heretofore exalted to the highest pinnacle of theology, please rise and explain, as we would rather be "angels" than "fools," rather, however, be neither. Must we be one or the other, or be inconsistent *modern* Presbyterians? C.

EMPLOYING TRAMPS.

How the Experiment Works in Cleveland.

The Tramp Committee of this city may find some encouragement in the following statement, from the Cleveland *Leader:*

The Tramp Ordinance has had a fair trial of two weeks in this city, and sufficient experience in its workings has been already gained to warrant the statement that it is and will be of great benefit to the city.

The work in which these men have been engaged is of a character required for the proper keeping of the city streets, and which would have to be done by hired laborers if not by these tramp bodges. To hire this work done would cost at least a dollar per head for the men employed, while the ordinance only allows per day to feed the tramps who are employed. It is also a fact, which will be made good by personal observations of any of the gentlemen who will take the trouble to inform themselves, that these men do as much work per day as like numbers of the Street Commissioner's regular force.

But the most important point to be considered is the relief which is afforded the city. A year ago at this time or year the lodgers averaged from sixty to eighty per night at the Central Station, some of which stayed at the Barn by the week at a time. The average now is not over thirty per night, making a decrease of over one half, and due solely to the ordinance, for there are more tramps about now than there were a year ago.

In place of the hordes of men who were formerly begging from door to door for food, the housekeepers have quiet, and feel that their meal is not disturbed by the passage of after the visit of some of these men, are once again safe. It is a relief which can only be appreciated by those who have been compelled to suffer.

The ordinance is to be kept going on its merits as long as the tramps hold out. In snowy weather the tramps are to be kept at shoveling, exercising their muscles on the snow which will 100 often line the streets. In front of the City Hall, the Police and Fire Departments, on the street crossings and pavements through the parks, there will be snow enough to keep them busy. On pleasant days they can again go at work on the street.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

The Salary Reduction Ordinances.—Warm Discussions in Select—Failure of the Police Ordinance—The City Attorney Decides Former Ordinances Legally Passed—Proposed Action with Tramps —Cleaning City Hall—Proposed Consolidation of Street and Road Districts.

Both branches of City Councils met yesterday, and transacted considerable business. In the Select branch exciting discussions took place on the salary ordinances and on the ordinance to consolidate Street and Road districts, thereby reducing the number of officers.

SELECT BRANCH.

In this branch, Dr. Gross, President in the chair, after the reading and approval of the minutes of previous meeting the clerk read the following

OPINION OF THE SOLICITOR.

To the Select Council:

GENTLEMEN, The following is a reply to your resolution, "whether the Select Council can legally legislate on an ordinance emanating from C. C., when the endorsements thereon do not show that the same has been referred to a committee."

In exercising the powers conferred upon and in fulfilling the duties required of the corporation by its charter and constituent acts, it becomes necessary for this Councils to perform legislative functions in the enactment of ordinances covering such subjects, in the mode prescribed by law.

This legislation may originate in either branch of Councils, and the various acts of one branch rendered necessary to give vitality to an ordinance are not the subject of review by the other branch.

When an ordinance has been finally passed by the Common Council, under the laws, ordinances and rules which at present govern the proceedings of the Councils of the city of Pittsburgh, it is not necessary that a minute of their action should be indorsed upon the back of the bill—the minutes of the Council required by the charter to be kept, by a clerk chosen for that purpose, being the appropriate record of their proceedings, and it is only essential that the Clerk should make report to the Select Council that the bill had been finally passed by the Common Council to make it the basis of legislative action on the part of Select Council.

When so reported the Select Council may then pass the ordinance irrespective of the regularity of the proceedings in the other or Common branche of Councils.

There is therefore no legal obstacle in the way of the passage of the ordinances to which said resolution has reference, by the Select Council, and as to said ordinances, an examination of the record of the proceedings of the Common Council discloses nothing which would affect their validity should they become completed ordinances in law.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. S. BIGELOW,
City Attorney.

PITTSBURGH, December 20, 1875.

On motion the communication was received and filed, and business proceeded as follows: Mr. Slupton calling up the salary ordinances.

MAYOR'S CLERK.

Ordinance reducing the salaries of the Assessor and Assistant Assessor of Water rents, fixing the former at $1,800 and the latter at $900 per annum, passed finally.

Ordinance fixing the salary of the Mayor's Clerk at $1,600 instead of $2,000.

Mr. Braun objected to the ordinance, claiming that the Mayor, from fees, was able to pay a clerk.

Mr. Litzell opposed Mr. Braun's proposition, and said it would bring back the old regime.

Mr. Braun moved to amend by making the salary $1500.

Mr. Finley favored the motion and advocated it.

Mr. Sawyer moved to make the salary $1,000.

Mr. Aiken moved to make it $1,200 and called the ayes and nays.

A short but exciting discussion took place, during which personalities were used.

Members explained that if amended the ordinance must go back to Common branch, and thus be lost for want of time.

The ayes and nays were called, and resulted —ayes 31, nays 31, and the amendment was declared lost.

Mr. Braun raised the point of order that it would take a two-third vote. Ruled out.

The ordinance was then passed finally.

Ordinance fixing the salary of the messenger of Councils at $800 was then taken up, and passed finally with five dissenting votes.

Ordinance reducing salaries of the Assistant Controller and Controller's clerk was next taken up, and after a point of order raised by Mr. Hunter as to power of Councils to reduce the Assistant Controller's salary, was referred back to the committee.

MARKET OFFICIALS.

Ordinance reducing the salary of Superintendent and clerk of markets.

Mr. Metzgar thought the amount named too low for these responsible officers. He moved to amend making them $1,250 each, instead of $1,000.

Mr. Aiken for the same reason suggested by Mr. Metzgar that the ordinance be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Metzgar withdrew his amendment, saying that he was under the impression that the salaries were $1,500.

After some discussion all the amendments were lost, but the ordinance failed to pass for want of a legal majority.

THE POLICE ORDINANCE KILLED.

Ordinance reducing the pay of the police force.

Mr. Braun raised the point that the ordinance should have gone before the Police Committee. Declared out of order.

Mr. Kerr opposed any further reduction.

Mr. Litzell thought two dollars per day was enough in view of the present wages of mechanics.

Mr. Braun gave a tabular statement of wages, showing that the police were not getting the average wages of mechanics.

Mr. Beckley moved to strike out that portion of the ordinance referring to the patrolmen and lamplighters.

The motion was laid over and the ordinance put on the final passage. The ayes were 25; nays 25; so the ordinance was lost.

An ordinance fixing the salary of the Wharfmasters, viz: the North Side, at $1,200, and of the South Side at $700 per annum. Adopted by a vote of 43 to 2 against, Messrs. Kerr and Kestner voted in the negative.

Mr. Shipton presented the ordinance reducing the salaries of employees of the Fire Department, and at his request it was referred to the Retrenchment Committee.

COMMON BRANCH.

Mr. MacConnell presented the draft of an act repealing Section 12 of the act of April 1st, 1868, entitled an act supplementary to and incorporating the city of Pittsburgh. The section to be repealed provides that all Council Committees shall consist of members of both branches, and the new act will provide that certain committees shall consist of members of S. C. only, and that others of members of S. C. and C. C.

STREET AND ROAD DISTRICTS.

Mr. Metzgar called up the ordinance re-districting the city for street purposes. The ordinance provides for the consolidation of the road with the street districts and consolidating the whole nine districts; dividing them into only four districts, thus doing away with five Commissioners.

Considerable discussion was had on the ordinance, when it was shown that such an arrangement would render a very material saving to the city treasury. A motion was made to lay the ordinance on the table, but this was lost by a vote of 20 yeas to 27 nays.

South Side members strongly objected to being reduced from three to one commissioner on that side.

After a multiplicity of motions and a great deal of wrangling, the ordinance was finally amended so as to allow two Commissioners for the South Side, two for the old wards of the city and two for the wards on the East End, and referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. Brown presented a resolution providing that Aldermen shall have the privilege to commit their prisoners to the station houses of the city. Referred to Police Committee.

TRAMPS.

Mr. Breed, from the Special Committee, to advise as to employment of "Tramps" made a report with the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioners of the several districts be, and they are hereby instructed to take charge of such laborers as may be furnished by the directors of the Young Men's Home and put them to work on the streets, at cleaning either the cartways or side walks, for which labor they are authorized to enter the names of all who will work on the city pay roll, not to exceed fifty cents per day, the aggregate amounts of which are hereby decided to be paid to the Treasury of the said Young Men's Home.

Resolved, That the Mayor be and is hereby directed to furnish such number of policemen as may be necessary to take charge of any tramps that may be furnished by the Young Men's Home, conduct them to such place or places as may be designated by the street commissioners of the several districts; to arrest as common vagrants, confine and hold to labor all who refuse to perform such labor and to return the tramps who are employed.

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Resolved, That the Mayor be and is hereby directed to furnish such number of policemen as may be necessary to take charge of any tramps that may be furnished by the Young Men's Home, conduct them to such place or places as may be designated by the street commissioners of the several districts; to arrest as common vagrants, confine and hold to labor all who refuse to perform such labor and to return the tramps who are employed to the Young Men's Home on Duquesne Way.

Resolved, That the Mayor be and is hereby directed to instruct the police force to return all tramps, and all others who are found loitering about without visible means of support, to the Young Men's Home, in order that they may be put into the working squads.

Mr. Braun claimed that Councils had no power to pay these men, and that it would be amount to nothing anyhow. He wanted employment given to those of our own people needing it, and not put the city and again on "tramps" going around who don't want to work.

Mr. Breed held that the ordinance would do good if it only scared off the tramps.

On motion the resolutions were referred to the Street Committee.

Adjourned to meet on Thursday afternoon.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Annual Meeting of the Allegheny County and City Association.

The annual convention of the Allegheny County and City Teachers' Association commenced yesterday afternoon in the hall of the First Ward School building, on Rebecca street, Allegheny. There was a large attendance of teachers and the friends of education, nearly every seat in the hall being occupied. County Superintendent Dickson was chosen to preside.

The meeting was opened with prayer, followed by music, when Superintendent Davis, of the Allegheny Schools, delivered the opening address, which displayed great care and ability in its preparation, and was listened to by the large audience with close attention.

John H. French, L.L.D., of Burlington, Vt., delivered an interesting lecture, after which there was music, followed by a short intermission, when the Association was again called to order by the presiding officer, who announced Prof. George T. McCord, Principal of Curry Institute, this city, to deliver a lecture on "How to Secure Thoroughness," a subject which the gentleman handled in a masterly manner. The afternoon session closed with readings by Prof. J. W. Shoemaker, of Philadelphia.

At the evening meeting the hall was again crowded. After music Dr. French delivered a most entertaining lecture on Natural History —or rather on the insect world—holding the attention of the vast audience for nearly two hours, during which the able lecturer elicited frequent applause. Our limited space this morning forbids even an attempt at a report of the many interesting points of the lecture.

Then followed music by Mr. J. S. Gittings, of Portsmouth, Ohio, who presided at the piano and exquisitely rendered "The Brook" and "Sans Souci."

Professor Shoemaker favored the audience with readings of "The Burial of Moses," "The Charcoal Man" and Mark Twain's "European Guides," all of which he gave in good style.

The Association then adjourned till this morning at nine o'clock.

THE GRAND ARMY.

The State Encampment to Meet in this City.

The State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held in the Academy of Music, in this city, commencing on the 26th of January. On that evening a public meeting will be held at the Academy and Judge Kirkpatrick has been invited to deliver the address at welcome. The reply will be made by A. Wilson Norris, Governor Hartranft's Private Secretary. An address will also be delivered by Capt. C. J. Arms, of this city. On the same evening after the public reception a ball will be tendered the visiting delegations at the Union Depot Hotel. The business of the Encampment will be transacted the following day at the rooms of Post 3, on Fourth avenue.

It is expected that this Encampment will be one of the largest ever held in the State. Governor Hartranft, who is Commander-in-Chief of the organization in the United States, will be present. An election of officers will take place during the Encampment.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

In the matter of George S. Lacey vs. Wm. McLean, of this city, the debtor was adjudged a bankrupt, and the matter referred to Register Harper.

In the matter of Wm. B. Barton, bankrupt of this city, said bankrupt's composition with his creditors was confirmed.

In the matter of N. Whiting & Co., debtors, of this city, the argument on the exceptions filed in the Register's report was had and the matter referred to Register Shafer.

In the matter of Francis Ardary, bankrupt, of this city, petition for discharge presented and the usual order made.

The composition of Sam. T. McClelland, bankrupt, of this city, with his creditors, was confirmed absolutely.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Stowe and Collier.

Wm. Reed and John Craig vs. Thomas S. Blair and wife. Action on a mechanics lien. On trial.

Mount Lebanon Cemetery vs. Wm. Espy. Action to recover subscription to capital stock. Jury out.

Elijah Powell vs. Anson Cheffins. Action in trover. On trial.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges Ewing and White.

The case of Wm. A. Reed vs. Thomas Bell and John Wier, previously reported, is still on trial.

Abraham A. Andrews was appointed guardian ad litem of Elizabeth and Henry Bradley.

In the case of Wilkinson and wife vs. the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad Company, previously reported, the plaintiffs took a non suit.

Quarter Sessions—Judge White.

Wm. P. Bowman; assault and battery; acquitted; costs divided.

Wm. Adams; larceny; *nol. pros.* allowed.

Alonzo Kennedy; larceny; plead guilty; fifteen months to the Workhouse.

Willis Johnston; burglary; plead guilty.

John Gawley and James Gawley; assault and battery; acquitted—prosecutor, Isaac Faulder, to pay half the costs.

John Thomas; feloniously entering a building; eighteen months to the Workhouse.

Theodore Tilton's Lecture.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

On Saturday evening, notwithstanding the very inclement weather, a large audience of staid, respectable-looking folks turned out to hear Theodore Tilton in Library Hall. When he appeared he was received with applause, which seemed to be cut short by astonishment; and those who once knew him might well stop and look again, then wait for the ceremony of introduction at his request it was referred to the Retrenchment Committee.

BUSINESS.

Mr. MacConnell presented the draft of an act repealing Section 12 of the act of April 1st, 1868, entitled an act supplementary to and incorporating the city of Pittsburgh. The section to be repealed provides that all Council Committees shall consist of members of both branches, and the new act will provide that certain committees shall consist of members of S. C. only, and that others of members of S. C. and C. C.

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Considerable discussion was had on the ordinance, when it was shown that such an arrangement would render a very material saving to the city treasury. A motion was made to lay the ordinance on the table, but this was lost by a vote of 20 yeas to 27 nays.

South Side members strongly objected to being reduced from three to one commissioner on that side.

After a multiplicity of motions and a great deal of wrangling, the ordinance was finally amended so as to allow two Commissioners for the South Side, two for the old wards of the city and two for the wards on the East End, and referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. Brown presented a resolution providing that Aldermen shall have the privilege to commit their prisoners to the station houses of the city. Referred to Police Committee.

TRAMPS.

Mr. Breed, from the Special Committee, to advise as to employment of "Tramps" made a report with the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioners of the several districts be, and they are hereby instructed to take charge of such laborers as may be furnished by the directors of the Young Men's Home and put them to work on the streets, at cleaning either the cartways or side walks, for which labor they are authorized to enter the names of all who will work on the city pay roll, not to exceed fifty cents per day, the aggregate amounts of which are hereby decided to be paid to the Treasury of the said Young Men's Home.

Resolved, That the Mayor be and is hereby directed to furnish such number of policemen as may be necessary to take charge of any tramps that may be furnished by the Young Men's Home, conduct them to such place or places as may be designated by the street commissioners of the several districts; to arrest as common vagrants, confine and hold to labor all who refuse to perform such labor and to return the tramps who are employed to the Young Men's Home on Duquesne Way.

Resolved, That the Mayor be and is hereby directed to instruct the police force to return all tramps, and all others who are found loitering about without visible means of support, to the Young Men's Home, in order that they may be put into the working squads.

Mr. Braun claimed that Councils had no power to pay these men, and that it would be amount to nothing anyhow. He wanted employment given to those of our own people needing it, and not put the city and again on "tramps" going around who don't want to work.

Mr. Breed held that the ordinance would do good if it only scared off the tramps.

On motion the resolutions were referred to the Street Committee.

Adjourned to meet on Thursday afternoon.

COMMON BRANCH.

The Common Council called to order at 2:30 P. M. President Negley being absent Mr. Powers was called to the chair. This was a special meeting to examine the ordinances reported by the Retrenchment and Reform. Committee. The ordinance relating to wages in the Street and Road departments was referred back to the Commissioners.

An ordinance fixing the salary of the Mechanical and Assistant Mechanical Engineers, was referred to the Water Committee.

REGULAR BUSINESS.

Council then proceeded with the regular order of business, and on the call of the wards a number of petitions, etc., were presented and properly referred. The following are some of the most important: Petition from the Trustees of the First German Evangelical Reformed church, for relief from refunding taxes on church property; an ordinance amending an ordinance entitled "An act supplementary," resolution relative to a dangerous building in the Thirty-fifth ward.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Aull, from the Survey Committee, presented an ordinance locating Chestnut street, Thirty-sixth ward. Laid over. Also, an ordinance vacating Collins avenue, from Stanton avenue to Graff street. Laid over.

Mr. Fox, from the Printing Committee, presented an ordinance to amend an ordinance to carry section 6 of the Wallace act in relation to contracts for supplies and work, also providing for the publishing of the Municipal Record. Passed. Also, an ordinance amending section of an ordinance regulating the manner of letting the public printing and prescribing the manner of doing the same. Passed.

Mr. Boucher called up an ordinance prescribing the manner of letting the contract for cleaning, furnishing and care of Municipal Hall. Fixed at one year's legal majority.

Mr. Connelly, from the special committee to consider the plan of streets of Mrs. Denny in the Thirty-fifth ward, reported affirmatively. The plan was approved.

SELECT COUNCIL BUSINESS.

An ordinance providing for a preliminary examination of all petitions or ordinances for street or sewer improvements by the Board of City Viewers. Laid over.

A resolution for the payment of $469 to K. Bracken for the construction of approaches to a bridge on Wilmot street. Passed.

Mr. Fox—A resolution providing for the advertising for men to put all water pipes, now exposed, under ground. Referred to the Water Committee.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In your item on reduction of wages of conductors and drivers, you conclude the item with this significant statement: "The fact remains the war rates is this is not only true of street railways, but is also true of our steam railways. They insist on an almost entire exemption from the decline in prices, and even in some cases are extracting a little more "grease" from their patrons. As for instance, in the making of coke, men pay for actual loss, which is an instance of tonnage. Now this state of things, in the face of poor men begging for work to keep their families from starving is a disgrace to our people, and should be remedied, even if extreme measures had to be restored to, in order to show great monopolies that the American people were not the kind to tyrannize over. Lift this incubus off our industries and prosperity will return again. SHIPPER.

Real Estate Transfers.

PITTSBURGH, December 20, 1875.

The following deeds were recorded in the office of Ralph J. Richardson, Recorder:

Fred. Gwinner to Charles Stoer, December 31, 1868; lot Manchester, Allegheny, Market street, 2x100 feet..... $ 75

Joseph Winters' executors to Archie Cummins, February 6, 1875; lot Twenty-third ward, Pittsburgh, 3 acres and 32 perches land..... 2,310

Margaret Mahony to Mary Donaven, August 14, 1875; lot Thirty-third street, Thirteenth ward, Pittsburgh, 29.61x115.67 feet..... 650

Thomas Jane T. McElroy to Wm. A. Shaw, October 29, 1875; lot Wylie street, Seventh ward, 20x97 feet..... 10,000

Joseph Keeling to John Labiatrie, October 15, 1875; lot Twenty-second street, Twenty-fifth ward, 20x85 feet..... 1,000

Catherine E. Twinkle to Edward F. White, December 9, 1875; lot Mittenberger street, Pittsburgh, 20x70 feet..... 825

Penn avenue B. and L. Association to Alex. M. Hamilton, November 12, 1875; lot Eighteenth ward, Pittsburgh, Holmes' avenue, 20x103 feet..... 600

Same to John S. Hamilton, October 15, 1875; lot same place, 20x103 feet..... 600

Same to Joseph S. Hamilton, November 12, 1875; lot same place, 20x103 feet..... 600

A. Pollock to W. J. Langfit, November 13, 1873; 4 lots, Eleventh ward, Allegheny..... 2,000

J. P. Johnson to S. P. Horner, December 18, 1875; lot 83 perches, land in Forward township..... 392

Joseph Keeling to Wm. Thomas, October, 1875; lot 19 Birmingham, Pittsburgh, Twenty-second street, 60x84 feet..... 3,350

Jacob Heiss to Barbara Kleiss, December 16, 1875; lot, Allegheny City, Taggart street, 24x100 feet..... 5

P. Reichenbach to Wilheimina Hartlett, December 18, 1875; lot, East Birmingham, Sarah street, 20x60 feet..... 1,000

David Evan to Mary A. Evan, November 27, 1875, lot, Tenth ward, Allegheny, Charles street..... 1

P. Reichenbach to Wilheimina Hartlett, December 18, 1875; lot, East Birmingham, Sarah street, 20x60 feet..... 1,000

Wilhelmina Hartlett to L. Reichenbach, December 18, 1875; same lot..... 1,000

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

On Sunday evening a slight fire occurred in the dwelling of G. W. Clark, No. 7 Stingiss street, owned by Wm. Alexander.

The charges made against Chief Ross, of Allegheny, by Mr. Golden have been investigated and found to be unsustained.

Rev. R. T. Taylor, President of Beaver College, preached at Hamline M. E. church, Steubenville, Ohio, Sunday, December 19th.

"That," said the tramp, "is the top buckwheat it has been used to keep the others warm; and I don't eat no coverlids." So he laid it one side.

A son of ex-Mayor Drum, of Allegheny, while on his way home, on Seminary Hill, a few nights ago, was pursued by highwaymen. He escaped by fleet-footedness.

Wm. C. Rea is a candidate for Street Commissioner in the Eastern district, Seventh ward, Allegheny, and his friends claim that his chances of success are rosy.

A mortgage of the Connellsville Railroad to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, amounting to 2,200,000 pounds sterling, was left for record in the County Recorder's office yesterday.

Lieutenant Bohannan, on Sunday evening discovered fire in the store of Mrs. Lyset on Frankstown avenue. The officer was not in time, no one about the place broke in and extinguished the flames.

A woman named Wm. Dolmeyer, residing at Haysville, on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, was severely wounded a few days ago by the accidental discharge of a pistol.

The County Commissioners have re-elected Messrs. Arthur Hobson, William Bacher, Moses Chess and John Gilfillan as representatives of the county on the Board of Managers of the Reform School.

Louis A. Kennedy, who was engineer on the tow-boat "Ingress," at the time of the explosion, was arrested yesterday and held to bail on a charge of manslaughter, preferred before a United States Commissioner.

The miners in the employ of the Castle Shannon Coal Company have come out again. This time, it is asserted, they are driven out by threats and intimidations from the striking miners in their neighborhood.

Early yesterday morning a guest at the Central Hotel, while absent from his room, was robbed of a diamond pin worth $400, a gold watch worth $300 and his pocket book containing fifteen or twenty dollars in cash.

Last afternoon a man named John Daney, was knocked down and run over by a coal team on Washington street. One of his legs was badly crushed, and he was taken into a neighboring house, where medical assistance was procured.

During the past week there were seventeen deaths in Allegheny city. Three of these were from heart disease, two were cases of still birth and the remainder of various other diseases, including one case of small-pox. All were white, ten were females and seven males.

In a gambling case recently tried in Philadelphia, Judge Finletter said that a game of cards in a family or among social friends, where a stake was put up, did not descend to the infamy of criminal gambling; but where the game was held open to the public and any one could go in and win or lose money, that was gambling within the meaning of the law.

The *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, Dayton, Ohio, highly compliments Dr. Alex. Clarke's lecture "Man or Monkey," and adds: "We are pleased to know that his recent travels have in a measure restored the strength that had failed under the excessive burdens of editorial labor. We doubt not that his lectures abroad and his visits among brethren will be of material physical benefit—that they will strengthen the good feeling toward the publishing interests of his church, and tend to enlarge the patronage of their paper. The *Recorder* is one of the most ably edited of our exchanges."

Drunk and Dishonest.

About ten o'clock yesterday morning a drunken man stole a bolt of waterproof cloth from a box in front of the store of John Gray & Co., on Carson street, Southside. Mr. Gray followed the man, arrested him and took him to Alderman Salisbury's office. At the hearing the man made an assault on the magistrate, witnesses interfered and a general affair, striking right and left with both hands and feet. This caused a scattering of the crowd in the office, and the glass in the windows and doors was shattered by the swaying crowd. Officers M'Curry and Dilmore now appeared upon the scene, and after considerable trouble the prisoner was handcuffed, and the magistrate concluded to commit him to the lock-up until he became sufficiently calm for a hearing.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House—"The Victor of Rhe."

The production of a new drama by an author of our own city, and the reappearance of that author, an actor of popular and well-deserved reputation, after an enforced absence from the stage of more than a decade, is an occasion which attracts and interests the theatre-going public of our city. The performance of Mr. Gotthold's drama "The Victor of Rhe" and the appearance of that gentleman in the leading role constituted such an event and attracted an appreciative audience.

The play itself, in a literary point of view, has both merits and demerits. It is located at a well-chosen period, has a romantic plot, and its action, with one or two exceptions, is natural and easy. The dialogue, as a general rule, is fair and in one or two cases there are passages of decided force and beauty. On the other hand, there are one or two characters, principally of a minor character, which it is no ungenerous task as a critic to partic